

Times.10



Your Magazine of Choice

October 1999, Vol. 7 Number 2

Dead Kids

Don't

Talk

but...

Page 17, 18

Identity

Pg's 20, 23, 44

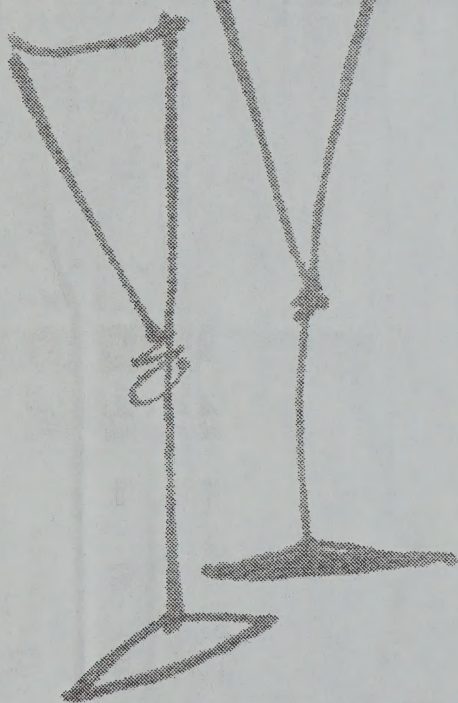
Health

Pg's 6, 27, 31

Fun

Pg's 7, 26, 28, 36

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anything but
temptation
itself...**

Oscar Wilde

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Your Magazine of Choice

Vol. 7 Number 2

October, 1999

Edmonton, Alberta

Editorial Comments.....	4
News & Notes from the Battlefront.....	6
Super Sport Weekend.....	7
Canadian eh?.....	9
Capital City Politics.....	10
Community Support Groups.....	12
Dead Kids Don't Talk.....	17
Living in Leather....	20
ERBA Report.....	22
Gay Men's Wednesday...23	
Writers Club.....	24
Shock Therapy.....	25
Monthly Neurosis.....	26
Speaking of "Normal".....	27
"Beefcake".....	28
Breaking Away.....	30
You're Not Listening....	31
Gay March on Washington.	34
Funny Bone.....	36
Long Yang Club Update....	38
Black & Blue Event.....	42
Becoming Ourselves.....	43
So What, I am Gay.....	44

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Nov. 12, 13 & 14

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Registration Party

Fri. Nov. 12

At Buddy's Pub 9-12 Midnight

ICE BREAKER DANCE

Friday Nov. 13

8 - 2 AM

\$10.00 per
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The Court of the Wild Rose

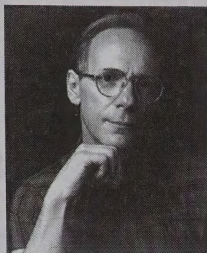
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From the Editor

by *Dennis Cambly*



The Lessons of Autumn

As the autumn air approaches, we are reminded of how simple life really is according to nature. One season leads into another without any question. It is a magical trip watching the season of autumn come upon us. Nature gives up all the bounty and paints a rendering that no human can duplicate. The true magic is that while autumn unfolds here in this part of the world, spring is perking itself up to the longer days of sunlight elsewhere. Is there anything that we can learn from the simple story that nature paints each day all around us?

Perhaps there is a day for awakening and a day for settling down while we get ourselves ready for the next adventure. There is no turning back since each season will hold something different for each one of us. We will see things the way we want to see things and there will be no revelation except for the one in our own heart. A season will be remembered for what it brought us at that time and never repeat it again. There was a time when we would crowd ourselves into a dirty old warehouse downtown. It was just what it was, filthy and too crowded, but we had no choice. The place has since become a lofting village for people who wanted to move into a painted warehouse. Its time will come and go and the place that was will be lost with far too many glorious

memories of something that does not exist. As the seasons change, so must we in order to move on and bring ourselves closer together in both work and play. We can learn from the painful memories and the happier ones too. We can unfold and mature as a great oak or fail and die as a twisted tangled vine. It is in the pain that is intentionally inflicted upon others that some of the greatest lessons can be learned, or ignored. It can become an endless cycle of never ending failure that brings us to the brink of something hopefully better. It is quite simple this time of living through the cycles of life.

Do we want to bring along all of the baggage from our past and move through life letting the load weigh us down? Or can we learn from nature that some branches are not worth keeping for the tree to grow. Yes, we can run from people, places or things but when we arrive at the new location we are still carrying the old baggage. In order for something to grow there is a time to prune the tree of our community and let some of the old ways pass into the archives of time. Remember them for what they were, steps for learning to grow along the way.

As we get ready to step into the new millenium, the times will change. Nature will force us to go on and meet the challenges that are really days of future passed away. Be a little gentler on yourself by being kind to just one person that you consider worthy of only your gossip. Just as nature goes in cycles, so to will the feelings that others have towards you. After all, what is life but a simple cycle that goes in circles? How are you going to spend your seasons?

Welcome to autumn; it is a beautiful time of year.

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FYI: News & Notes from the HIV/AIDS Battlefront

"AIDS Experts Cautiously Welcome UK Vaccine Test" Reuters

Participants at the 11th International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases gave cautious praise to news that an HIV vaccine will be tested in Britain. Researchers, led by Professor Andrew McMichael of John Radcliffe University in Oxford, announced earlier this week they would launch next year safety trials of a vaccine designed to stimulate T-cell production in the immune system. Professor Lawrence Corey of the University of Washington welcomed the news but noted that it still remains to be seen whether the vaccine will succeed. Corey suggested that a preventive vaccine may ultimately result from combining a variety of vaccines from around the world.

"Alarming Rise in Sex Diseases" New Zealand Press

In Wellington, New Zealand, rates of sexually transmitted diseases are rising at alarming rates. Over the past six months, there has been a 400 percent increase in HIV cases, according to the Wellington Independent Practice Association. Cases of gonorrhea have increased 50 percent, with an average of one case diagnosed every week so far this year. Genital herpes and warts cases have also been above the national average for the last two years.

"Light This Candle" Boston Globe Online

In a commentary in the Boston Globe, David Warsh suggests creating an international vaccine board. He notes that malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV take about 7 million lives each year, and that the overwhelming

majority of malaria cases and new HIV infections occur in sub-Saharan Africa. While most pharmaceutical companies are hesitant to spend millions of dollars developing a drug, for which they would receive little in return, Warsh says that an adequately funded vaccine board could "promise that any vaccine meeting specified standards of efficacy will be purchased in sufficient volume at a price high enough ... to guarantee a favorable return to a successful developer." Worldwide, sentiment for a Vaccine Purchase Fund has been growing. According to Harvard University's Michael Kremer, a commitment to purchase vaccines is preferable to public funding because it keeps researchers focused on the task at hand, while forcing drug companies to decide which research paths to follow means that the government does not have to make such decisions itself.

"Russia's HIV Rate Up 70 Percent So Far in '99" Minneapolis Star Tribune

Statistics show that the number of HIV infections in Russia soared 70 percent in the first eight months of 1999. According to the Interfax news agency, most of the new HIV infections in Moscow were among drug users.

"On the Trail of Hepatitis C" USA Today

A program launched last year began testing emergency room patients for the hepatitis C virus (HCV). Under the program, patients entering the emergency rooms of participating hospitals are tested for HCV, and the results are posted—without the patients' names—on the Internet. According to Alan Zelicoff of Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, who launched the network, about 2,000 patients have

already been tested in New Mexico and Russia. The results show that approximately 4.5 percent of these individuals have tested positive for HCV.

"Teens Alert Peers to the Perils of HIV" Los Angeles Times

A new program for teenagers in California's Ventura County trained area high school students to talk to their peers about HIV prevention. The teenagers were educated about HIV and AIDS, talked with an HIV-positive patient, and practiced talking to other teens about prevention. The students now give one-hour talks to teens at youth clubs, churches, and group homes. The Peer Education Program of Ventura County is based on the Peer Education Program of Los

Angeles, which has been operating for nine years.

"Health Tips: Early Treatment May Be Best for HIV-Related Dementia" United Press International

Findings published in Neurology, the journal of the American Academy of Neurology, suggest that the early phases of HIV-related dementia may be treatable. According to the research, highly active antiretroviral therapy can undo chemical changes and brain damage that stem from HIV infection. Study author Dr. Linda Chang of the University of California at Los Angeles noted that these changes may even be reversible with early detection and treatment because early HIV-associated dementia is linked to chemical, not structural, brain change.

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- ▽ what did I do to deserve ...?
- ▽ is my sexual behavior 'normal'?
- ▽ and ...and Or ...?

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Edmonton's First Super Sports Weekend

By Joe Achtemichuk

The Northern Titans Ice Breaker Tournament is no stranger to Edmonton's allies. On any given Saturday you can always find a few men and women playing with their balls. Having one hell of a time I might add.

As ingenuity goes, the Titans bowling league will be hosting its ninth annual Ice

Breaker Tournament November 12, 13 & 14. Here's where the ingenuity comes in. The board slaved all summer to come up with a new aspect to this years tournament. Ok, to be perfectly honest we didn't really slave, but hell, I have to add a little drama here.

The Titans came up with an ingenious plan to create a super sports weekend. A weekend that would excite and titillate the average Edmontonian. After all, how far can pizza and beer go. To create this event, they invited

the sporting groups from around the city to a round table meeting. You know men and their toys, always having to prove who can out joust who. In the end, after rounds and rounds of jousting, the weekend was set. Did I mention the beer helped too?

So from this day forth let it be known across the land, more dramatics. That the Ice Breaker Tournament is no longer just the Northern Titans tournament, it's Edmonton's Sports Tournament. How's that for a proclamation. Ok, so I'm no Shakespeare, but hell, who is.

This November, you will see participants playing in not one, but four sports around the city, attracting people from across Western Canada. Those sports are: Bowling, Volley Ball, Badminton and Curling. So, if you get turn on by hot and sweaty men and women, with fantastically toned bodies, look no further: this is the weekend you've been waiting for.

Here's a breakdown on the weekend:

- Friday Nov. 12.
Registration Party, at
Buddy's Pub
9:00pm to Midnight.
- Saturday Nov. 13
Sporting events
around the city
9:00am to 5:00pm.
- Ice Breaker Dance,
hall TBA
8:00pm to 3:00am.
- Sunday Nov. 14

**Sporting events
around the city
11:00am to 3:00pm.**

**Awards Banquet, at
Carole's Restaurant
5:00pm to 10:00pm**

**The Survivors Party,
at the Roost
10:00pm to 3:00am**

Host Hotel:

The Ramada/Edmonton Inn. 1-877-291-4911 Canada & USA. In Edmonton 454-5454. \$67.00 CDN a night, 1-6 people, no extra room charge per person. When booking the hotel please quote the Ice Breaker. Rate good until October 12, 1999.

Remember, this is also the Canadian Finals Rodeo week, so book early.

If you are interested in participating in this tournament, or just want to come and cheer your favorite teams or individuals on, please contact anyone on the list in our Ice Breaker ad. They can also supply you with tickets and further information on the tournament.

So come on Edmonton. Come out and be a part of this landmark event in Edmonton's Gay Sporting Community. Edmonton's First Super Sports Weekend. I know I'll be there and not because I have to be.

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Who we really are - Canadian Ah?

From Bob Mills

I'm sitting here drinking my cappuccino whose recipe comes from Italy, using coffee beans from Columbia, ground finely using a Turkish mill.

Having poured my drink into my cup made of kaolin clay from China, fired in a British oven, and stirring it with my stainless steel spoon whom owes its existence to the discovery of smelting iron by the Egyptians. And later hardened by a technique discovered by the Greeks, and refined to produce steel by a British inventor, look upon a painting by A.J. Casson from the Canadian Group of Seven hanging on my wall.

I ponder at the sugar I added to my cappuccino, from sugarcane grown in the Caribbean and Southern United States and with the frothed milk given by cows. Topped with Sri Lankan cinnamon. "Just a whisper of cinnamon," as Niles

once said while ordering a latte on a situation comedy called *Frasier* produced in the United States, that made me laugh.

I'm situated at 79.37 degrees latitude west by 43.67 degrees longitude north determined by looking at my Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) receiver. This GPS receiver was made in Japan. The 24 GPS Satellites launched and maintained by the United States military contain accurate atomic timing clocks using caesium atoms discovered by a German chemist.

I am to learn that the geographic location happens to belong to a country called Canada. I don't particularly care, it is due to happenstance that I am Canadian. I can't be proud of something I didn't choose or work for. I have no shame nor pride in this government, as my one vote makes no difference statistically. I have no pride nor shame in its history as I wasn't part of it. I am part of the present and can only make my presence felt on the future, if I choose. I won't go to war for this nor any other government. I have no prejudice against

capitalism, communism, fascism, monarchy nor socialism. They all have good and bad points. They all work(ed) well at different times in history. It's more important to know when it is time to leave one for a better. They all deserve(d) a chance with which to be tried and experimented. I am proud of change when it



is for the good such as the emancipation of slaves, abolition of apartheid, the falling of the Berlin Wall, the break-up of the Soviet Union. I am proud of immigrants who had the courage and fortitude to leave their country/ political problems when it no longer served their beliefs to try a new system in a new country, most often with a new language and new customs. But I'm equally happy when they retain their heritage, language and culture so

I may share and learn in their ways and customs. Especially different worldly cuisine, new music and different ideals.

I have no pride in my mother tongue, English, as I was a child when it was learned. Learned by instinct not by will. I didn't create it nor develop it. I see language as a 'tool' to communicate and no reason to have pride in a language nor to fight over it. Should one be proud of the hammer for driving the nail into wood?

I have no pride in the fact that I'm gay. I was born that way too. I didn't choose it nor work for it. I am proud of those who overcome the prejudice of others and work to become true to themselves. I am proud of those who teach others of the wrongs of their prejudice. Especially by example. I am ashamed of the religion I was born under, but proud that I have liberated myself from its teachings. I am proud of science. Science equals truth. I am proud of this list for our discourse has created it. It enlightens, challenges and causes debate. That is good.

Author wishes to remain anonymous

Capital City Politics



The Ultimate Betrayal

By Laurie Blakeman,
MLA

If I were a betting woman, I'd have won money on my bet that the provincial government would ignore the recommendations that came out of the Gambling Summit. I was one of three MLAs at this summit and watched as community organizations and leaders worked very hard giving careful thought to how they wanted revenue generated by gambling to be spent in their communities. And this government has twisted the main points of this summit.

People who attended the summit came up with two main points. Number one was that it was wrong to take gambling revenues and use it to fund core services like health care. The core services that our tax dollars are supposed to be funding. Instead, overwhelmingly, community leaders agreed the money should go back into the community to support the additional services that have been

picked up by community non-profits as a result of downloading. And they wanted funds to support the traditional 'quality of life' areas like the arts, amateur sports, youth initiatives, libraries, museums etc.

The Klein government's response was to ignore that suggestion and instead has used gambling money to shore up spending in most government departments. New announcements by government regarding additional lottery money for infrastructure were said to be in conformity with the Gaming Summit because the money would be well accounted for! This is the ultimate betrayal of all the people who took the time to participate in the Gambling Summit and it insults Albertan's intelligence. This government turned around the suggestions from the summit and now claim that this is what Albertans said they wanted, but clearly it is not.

The other priority that came out of the summit was the desire for the provincial government to be accountable to the voters on how the money is spent. We made it clear that we don't want to see gambling revenues being used as a slush fund to provide rewards to constituencies that vote Tory blue, but we also didn't want the money to be hidden. This suggestion was also ignored or rather 're-interpreted'. During the budget debates I discovered that programs that already existed were being transferred to the Lottery Fund. In other words, a program, which already existed (i.e. not new), would now be paid for out of the

Lottery Fund. Programs were transferred from almost every department in the government. But it was all there if you knew how to find it. So once again, pre-existing government services were being paid for from the Lottery Fund but the government says this is okay because they have accounted for it! They used one summit recommendation to support why they have contravened another recommendation. Neat trick eh!

So much for open, accountable government and so much for a government that cares and listens. The Klein government has made consultation a dirty word in Alberta, twisting community recommendations to suit its needs as it continues to fuel its addiction to gambling.

I am always on the lookout for new issues, developing concerns or questions, especially when we're in session, so please keep my number handy and don't hesitate to call. If you'd like to speak with me on this issue or any others, please call me at the constituency office at 414-0743 or drop by 10042-116 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1V6. E-mail: blakeman@aonet.com. For a toll free call outside Edmonton use the RITE line at 310-0000, then dial the office number. During session, you can also reach me through the Liberal Caucus office at 427-2292.



Let Him Pay His Own Way

By Pam Barrett
ND Leader

When I first heard that the provincial government was planning to use public funds to pay for Stockwell Day's legal bills, I was absolutely stunned.

Day is being sued by lawyer Lorne Goddard over a letter he wrote, in which he attacked Goddard for defending a convicted pedophile. In order to defray the costs of his suit, Day is using a government insurance scheme called the Risk Management Fund - administered by his own department - to have his legal costs covered.

There are so many things wrong with this decision, it's hard to know where to start. It is unbelievably hypocritical for a government that has been advising Albertans to "tighten their belts" to suddenly turn around and use public money to pay for the mistakes of its

Treasurer. Whatever Day says, it most definitely *not* the job of a Member of the Legislative Assembly to comment publicly on important criminal cases before the courts, which is exactly what he did. Even former Justice Minister Jon Havelock advised MLAs against doing that. It looks to me like this was Stockwell Day going on a personal crusade. Fine. Just let him take responsibility for his own actions, as the conservative credo goes, and let him pay his own way.

Besides the hypocrisy and the ethical questions, there appears to be some serious questions about the legality of the decision to have public funds cover the expenses of Stockwell Day. Originally, the Risk Management Fund was designed mainly to cover expenses when government employees or property suffered thefts, property damage or auto accidents.

The current government maintains that ministerial regulations passed in 1993 and 1996 extended coverage of the Risk Management Fund to Members of the Legislative Assembly. It raises serious questions, however, when you consider that opposition MLAs were never told of these changes and it never appeared in the Members' Guide given to each MLA.

And although Stockwell Day is both a cabinet minister and an MLA, he has had to separate those roles somewhat. And as an MLA he is subject to all the rules and privileges of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. One of the biggest privileges of the Legislature is that no one – not even the government – has the right to dictate to MLAs their salaries, benefits without its

consent. The Legislative Assembly is not part of the Government – it is master of its own House.

So when the Government of Alberta passed a ministerial regulation in secret that purported to confer these financial benefits upon MLAs, it may have violated the right of the Legislature to determine its own matters. That's why – in addition to the fact that it's hypocritical and inappropriate – Day should take his own neo-conservative advice and take responsibility for his actions.

From Robert Wm. Smith

Mr. Jim Shafer, Chair, and
The Board of Directors of
I.S.C.W.R.
c/o 10242 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5 J 1H7

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to publicly express my heartfelt and humble appreciation for the honour that the "Court" bestowed upon me at the Ball of September 4th, 1999. Being selected "Citizen of the Year" by the members of I.S.C.W.R. comes as a complete surprise. I am deeply honoured and proud to be considered worthy of membership among the austere and accomplished group of past recipients.

It is very rewarding to know that the work I have been involved in throughout the past year in the LGBT communities and the

community at large is recognized and appreciated. I have always attempted to place the value of community and the enrichment of the human condition at the forefront of my activities.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the contributions made by the many people I work with in the variety of initiatives I am involved in. From the political forum and lobbying groups to the wonderful work performed by my colleagues at HIV Edmonton, I am but one of several dedicated and gifted activists.

Again, my thanks for this honour. Each of us has a part to play in the building of community. I urge everyone to please get involved.

Sincerely,
Robert Wm. Smith

The Gay Agenda

Many of you have heard Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and others speak of the "Homosexual Agenda," but no one has ever seen a copy of it. A friend of mine recently obtained a copy directly from the Head Homosexual. I certainly hope it will assist your own planning efforts.

It reads as follows:

The Homosexual Agenda

6:00 a.m. Gym

8:00 a.m. Breakfast
(oatmeal and egg whites)

9:00 a.m. Hair
appointment

10:00 a.m. Shopping
(preferably at Macy's or
Nordstrom's)

12:00 p.m. Brunch

2:00 p.m.

- 1) Assume complete control of the U.S. Federal, State, and Local Governments, as well as all other national governments,
- 2) Destroy all healthy marriages,
- 3) Replace all school counselors in grades K-12 with agents of Colombian and Jamaican drug cartels,
- 4) Bulldoze all houses of worship,
- 5) Secure total control of the INTERNET and all mass media, and
- 6) Be fabulous

2:30 p.m. Get forty
winks of beauty rest to
prevent facial wrinkles
from the stress of
world conquest
4:00 p.m. Cocktails
6:00 p.m. Light
Dinner (soup, salad
[with arugula and
balsamic vinegar
dressing], Chardonnay)
8:00 p.m. Theatre
10.30 p.m. Cocktails
in the "village"

12:00 Midnight - Bed

education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped that the spread of AIDS will be lessened. Volunteers are very important to us. If you can help, or would simply like some more information, call 488-5773

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere. There are 4 leagues: 1) Recreational - contact Christopher at 423-4930; 2) Beach (summer) - contact Christopher at 423-4930; 3) Intermediate/Skills Development - contact Darcy at 425-7316; 4) Tournament - contact Andrew at 435-9379. Alternatively email ftb@telusplanet.net for details.

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (G.L.C.C.E.)

The centre contributes to the well-being of Edmonton's gay, lesbian and bisexual community through informational social support services and its social information line. The services offered by the centre include an information line, telephone referrals, library, and drop-in peer support counselling.

Further information is available at 488-3234. E-Mail

glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings.

At 7:30 p.m. Breadstick Cafe at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. Join us to relax, share experiences, and establish friendships. There is no age limit. Tel: 780-463-2098 (Graham)

E-mail:

gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Website:

www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Castro/5598

Gay Men's Outreach Crew (G.M.O.C.)

G.M.O.C. is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV amongst men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on G.M.O.C. workshops and other activities, call 488-5742

Gaywire

Edmonton's only radio show about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered lives airs on CJSR FM88.5 Thursdays between 6 and 7 p.m.

Featuring news, local and international features and community events.

Guys Going Dancing

Tired of dancing alone in a crowded club? We meet every Friday from 10:00PM at Buddys Dance Club, 10112 - 124 Street for companionship and fun on the dance floor. To join us contact Graham 463-2098 or e-mail:

gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

HIV Network of Edmonton Society

AIDS Network of Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. Today the network provides Education, Info-Line, Speakers Bureau, Resource material and various Support groups. If you wish to know more about the Network, call 488-5742.

E-mail:

mail@hivedmontion.com

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Crossdressers, Transsexuals

and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information, write to Illusions Social Club. Our mailing address is Box 1852, Edmonton, T5K 2P2; or phone 488-3234 on Tuesday evenings to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations which provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals.

Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our website is at: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5904>

Interfaith Association on AIDS Edmonton

The purpose of this association is to sensitize local faith communities and their leaders to the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. The following faith communities are included: Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Lutheran, Metropolitan Community Church, Roman Catholic, Temple Beth Ora, Ukrainian Catholic, Unitarian and United Churches. Phone 448-1768 for more information. Email: mail@hivedmontion.com

Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Church) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7

p. m.

Liatris Society

An informal social group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and straight people who enjoy gardening and outdoor nature activities. For information see www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce/liatris.htm or contact liatrisociety@hotmail.com or William at 474-7328.

Liaison Committee, The

In June of 1993, Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community met for a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more info, call Edmonton Police Service at 423-4567 or contact the committee at 421-2277

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768 or e-mail:

mail@hivedmontion.com

Long Yang Club

Edmonton Chapter

We are an International organization for Gay-Asians and non-Asians. We are the Worlds largest with chapters in 28 cities and 11 countries. Come and Join US! Contact us via Graham at 463-2098.

Continued on page 14

Greater Edmonton Gay & Lesbian Community Support Groups and Services

Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 - 101 St. Last Saturday of the month at 7:30 - 9:30 PM. For more info, call: Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis/Tess at 474-0862.

Alberta Pflag

Meets the last Sunday of each month at Knox-Met Church. The Church is located at the corner of 109 Street and 83 Avenue. Meeting time is 2 P.M. Contact Ellen by phone at 465-3057 or by e-mail showrsh@compusmart.ab.ca.

Alcoholics Anonymous

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet. Contact Dushan at 454-8449 for more information.

Badminton League

The badminton league is designed for men and women of all ages and experience. Players who are

interested can participate in Calgary's Western Cup Tournament during the Easter Long Weekend. For further information, please contact Bruce at 453-1244 (email: cwbyteddy@powersurfr.com) or Dennis at 471-4409.

Bare Naked Boys Club of Edmonton - BNBCE

A naturist group of gay men in Edmonton interested in social nudity. This is not a sex club. Men of all ages welcome. Call Fred at 469-7231 for information.

The B.E.A.R.S. of Edmonton

A group for hairy men and their admirers meet the last Friday of the month 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. at Boots. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3. Our email address is bears@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca. Our Website is: <http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/~bears>

Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Garrett at 423-1725 or e-mail: garrett.epp@ualberta.ca.

Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-4218

Classics

A social group for lesbians over 40. Meetings on the

first Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.. Call Donna at 456-1008

Edmonton PFLAG/T

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays.

Edmonton PFLAG/T promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at GLCCE. For information contact Lynne at 462-5958 or e-mail:

pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca.

Edmonton Prime Timers

We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. Our activities include: theatre nights, video nights, pub nights. Sunday brunches, and dining out.

'We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, Ron by e-mail at mercury@planet.eon.net, or better yet...join us at our monthly meeting.

Edmonton Rainbow

Business

Association(ERBA):

Gay men and Lesbians in business and our non-gay friends; Join us ...share your business knowledge, learn more, make new friends,

network ... in positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm.

Call Bill Faulkner for more information 422 6207.

Call for information on our BBQ on Sept 14, or our general meetings.

Membership \$25.00/yr.

Edmonton Vocal

Minority

A mixed voice chorus joining together in a common love of music and a desire to build a greater spirit of unity and pride in the lesbian community. If you are interested in singing with EVM or working in the areas of promotion, staging or front of house concerts and events, please contact us at P. O. Box 12091, Main Post Office, T5J 3L2 or telephone 988-4620. E-mail:

evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Equal=Alberta

[Edmonton]

Equal=Alberta

[Edmonton] is a group of concerned citizens working to ensure gay and lesbian Albertans remain protected under Alberta's Human Rights Legislation and to ensure equal treatment for all Albertans. Call: (780) 488-3234 Fax (780) 482-2855. By Email: equalalberta@hotmail.com or visit our Webpage: www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce/equal.htm

Feather of Hope

Aboriginal AIDS

Prevention Society

The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through

Support Groups and Services

Continued from page 13

Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call Mette at 461-5571, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail:

luthconc@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca
Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe. Services are open to all. We worship on Sunday evenings at 7:15 at McDougall United Church - South entrance. Please feel free to join us! Call 429-2321 for more information. E-mail:

revbev@compusmart.ab.ca
M.C.C. Youth Group
Provides a safe environment for gay/les/bi/trans youth to express themselves freely, explore sexuality and to experience god's/goddess' healing and wholeness. How we intend to achieve this goal is through social, recreational, educational and cultural activities. We are meeting on Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. If you have any further questions please E-mail Pam at pamjoce@telusplanet.net.

14

Our phone number is 429-2321

Northern Titans

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Saturday at 5:00pm, September to April, at Pins & Cues Bowling & Billiards Centre, Southeast corner of Westmount Shopping Centre, 111 Ave. & 135 St. For more information, please call Garry Billett at (403) 426-6311

Outback Trailblazers

Formerly known as the River Valley Cyclists. The organization promotes recreational and outdoor pursuits within the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgendered communities of Edmonton and surrounding area. Future activities may include hiking, canoeing, camping, horseback riding and any other suggestions for activities are welcome. For more information, please call Dan at 440-6710 or Peter at 434-4712 or email at danzjeep@oanet.com.

OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. on campus; main floor of the Athabasca Hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by calling 988-4166. E-mail:

outreach@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca
Team Edmonton
Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for person interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team

Edmonton, call Johann at 437-0687.

Yours Mine Ours And Us
Parenting group (peer support) for lgbt parents, partners. Meets every second Tuesday in the Bloomsbury Room, Orlando Books, from 7-9 p.m. Drop ins welcome. Small contribution for room costs. Issues of parenting, coming out to kids, discipline etc. Call Liz at Messiah Counselling Services 415-5434 or Garry Billett at 426 6311. Not a therapy group.

Youth Understanding Youth

We meet every Saturday from 8 to 10 pm at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information, or the give your input, phone 488-3234 or email:

yuyedm@hotmail.com
Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton

We are an open, liberal religious community that values diversity and celebrates our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered members. With us you are encouraged with open mind and heart to form your own set of personal beliefs. Sunday services at 9:30am and 11:15am. 12530 - 110 Ave, Ph. 454-8073. For more information please call Kristy at 433-5843 or Mike at 482-6582.

Womospace

The purpose of Womospace is to foster a positive Lesbian identity among the larger community and ourselves.

We hold dances, produce a newsletter and hold other activities. For information phone 482-1794 and visit our Web Page address is - <http://www.gaycanada.com/womospace/>

Regional Organizations Freedom Fort McMurray

A social Support group for Gays/Lesbian/Bisexual & Transgendered Persons and their friends. For information on upcoming events and inquiries into membership please call our Freedom line (780) 799-GAY1 (4291). To speak directly with a welcoming committee member call between 3-6pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays. You may mail us at "Freedom Fort McMurray c/o Money Mart Suite #1, 9713 Harding St. Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1L2.

Grande Prairie

Gay and Lesbian Community, Box 1492
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z3
e-mail: pellerin@gprc.ab.ca

Northern Rainbow Youth

A support group for High School students. Our email address is nryl13_18@hotmail.com and our web page is www.mhenley.com/ashe/nry/. If you want more info yourself, then you can call Crystal at (780) 790-0775 at work.

High Level Gay and Lesbian Support Group

The High Level Support Group offers info on suicide prevention, monthly meetings, provincial events, gay organizations, information on a place to meet and free counselling provided by High Level mental health for both gay people and parents of gay children. Our web site address is <http://www.geocities.com/westhollywood/park/7702/> or call 780-926-3989

Out North,

P.O. Box 2895,
Yellowknife, NWT
X1A 2N7.

Fetish Ball

October 16th



AND NO NAME FUNDRAISER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JIM BIRLOW. P. P. BIG 40



Dead Gay Kids Don't Talk But....

By Pierre J. Tremblay

Introduction

In the 1995 paper, *The Homosexuality Factor in the Youth Suicide Problem*, it was stated that "dead gay kids don't talk," but that often enough someone has information related to the victim's homosexual orientation. A Calgary example was reported in the 1996 Update to "The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Factor in the Youth Suicide Problem. A same-age female friend - "A" - of a 17-year-old Calgary male suicide victim knew about his homosexual orientation but she had not told anyone until she attended a 1996 Youth Suicide Forum held in Calgary. Although the organizers had decided to be silent on the subject of homosexuality being related to youth suicide issues, I had broken the

silence, for which "A" later thanked me. She then spoke about her friend, his homosexual orientation, and the highly homophobic school he attended. This web page reports on a similar case of socially constructed "silence" which has existed about an American boy who committed suicide at school. The information was made available by a 20-year-old American female I have been relating with for two months with the hopes of better understanding the eating disorders and suicide problems affecting her.

Steve, a Gay Adolescent Male, Commits Suicide at School



(Note: The text is edited and names were changed. The final copy was sent to Maria for approval before it was made available on the Internet. The information

was received on September 20, 1999)

I was troubled by the information you sent to me and decided to tell you the story of a boy who was in grade 9 with me and committed suicide about 7 years ago. He did this right in front of our P.E. class.

I remember so clearly that day Steve did it, and the last day I saw him. He was in a few of my classes and was a straight A student who was the nicest boy one could ever meet! That weekend we had Monday off, so this all happened on Tuesday. He had called 911 from the school and said he had a gun.

Some of us were in the field when he came running out and then we heard a sound

who it was, but none of us knew his identity until later. I couldn't bear the classes I had him in, because we sat next to each other and we were partners in projects all the time. I would see his empty desk and would break down until finally they put the desk in the back of the room.

About a week later, I was grading tests and I came across his. I still graded it as if he would be getting it, and he had failed that test. It was an eye opener for me: I knew he'd never gotten a failing grade in that class, and I realized that he knew what he was going to do at that point.

I kept asking myself if there was anything I could have done, but how could I as [the mother of another gay male who committed suicide] said. There were none of the signs. He never told me how unhappy he was, and that his parents were getting a divorce.

The thing is, people let his parents continue to believe Steve did this maybe because of the divorce. That was the only thing the papers and news gave for a why. When I was talking to his dad at the funeral, he asked me if his son had shown any signs of this. The signs he might have given were not obvious enough to see. No matter how many times I tried to remember any

and he dropped. Police cars were there a second too late, and Steve was pronounced dead an hour later.

We were all talking about what had just happened and

Continued on page 18

Dead Kids..

Continued from page 17

signs, it was too late. Steve was gone and that was that.

With him, you would have never imagined suicide to have been possible. College yes, good career yes, long life yes, but not death. He never had much to say to people he didn't know; he was very shy and felt comfortable only talking to the ones he knew. Steve also never passed judgment on anyone.

Yet, after all this happened, they all passed judgment on him. People would say that he was stupid to do this, and that was just plain selfish. I knew, however, how he must have felt because I had also been dealing with suicide issues. I therefore couldn't deal with others making jokes about his death. I was just not going to let that happen, not for his sake, or my own, or the others that were in the same position.

They had counselors at our school for about a week afterwards for students to talk with about their feelings concerning all of this. My teacher made me talk to one, and all they had to say was: "Did he mention the divorce?" I was thinking what bullshit! How about the idea that he didn't do this because of his parents, but because he was gay and he didn't want to say anything!

18

But no one even asked that question, and I wasn't about to tell them what Steve had told me weeks before; he was gay. Why? Because I wasn't about to let others make fun of that too. The only thing I could do was to try and make his image good.



I never told his parents what he had told me, and no one knew except for one other person: the one he was with. He also, however, didn't want to say anything about it because that would make others not accept him as well.

At times I want to pick up the phone and call his dad and tell him the truth (maybe) concerning why Steve committed suicide. Unfortunately, both his parents are strongly religious

and that might only make them very angry. I nonetheless feel at peace with the fact that [he] had confided in me, and the rest was up to him. But now no one except myself and one other person will ever know the real Steve and why he

what Bruce's mother had felt and written as the result of her son's death. The majority of the letter is rendered below.

Dear 'Maria',

Bringing the truth to light is the most important part of being a caring human being, and when we hide the truth... our human spirit is damaged. Our human spirit is what drives us to living life to our fullest potential, and it's important to love ourselves and forgive those who judge us or don't know how to love us as we are. No one is perfect on this planet, but we try to do our own personal best. This morning I cried when I read in your letter that your friend died because he was gay. And I want to tell you that there is something wonderful you can do for his parents... tell them the truth.

It doesn't matter that it was years ago... the truth frees us when we use it. I know your reasons were to protect anyone from tarnishing his memory, but his parents, in spite of the fact that they're religious, will face the truth however they so chose. It's not your burden to protect them, as a matter of fact, you may free them from the extreme guilt of believing their divorce caused their son's death! What a gift that would be to them. There is nothing better than the truth.

killed himself, and that is very sad.

Related Discussion

Upon reading the above account of the suicide of a grade-9 boy, Bruce's mother (who discovered that her son was gay only after his death, via a suicide note) wrote a letter to the Maria (a pseudonym). After Maria had also read

You could write them a letter and explain and then you, yourself, would be free of the burden of hiding something inside yourself and carrying the weight of it subconsciously all these years. What a hard thing it must've been for you to know. You need to take care of yourself. The blessing of releasing the truth will be life-giving to both yourself and that boy's parents. It's 'never' too late for the truth. They will understand and forgive your silence all these years.

My God, you were just a kid yourself. If I were in your shoes, I'd probably have done the same thing feeling I was protecting my friend. But as we grow older, and having start figuring out what is really the best thing for ourselves, we constantly change and grow into taking responsibility for what we believe in and how we want to be. There is love in 'truth'. When we are truthful because we care, we are respecting and loving ourselves and others.

I would welcome anyone with more truth about Bruce. The more we can know about those we love, the closer we are to them. It's that simple. You could bring your friend's parents to know more about their son and also themselves, and, though, it may not be easy for them... they'll have at least, the 'truth' of it all, and how they progress with that

information is their journey here, and their responsibility... not yours. Bruce probably thought he was protecting us all by his pretense, but keeping a secret is deadly to our 'self'.

I hope you don't mind that I've said what I have here and I'm not intruding into your life, but again, I care about you and am just reaching out to help. I believe you'll get well, because you're getting in touch with who you are. The easiest way to find out who you are is to find out 'who you don't want to be'. We all have a right to live our own lives and own truths... I hope you'll live yours.

God bless and protect you, Maria. You are a special person. And if I could be there with you right now... I'd give you a great big hug and just hold you.

(Thanks and gratitude go to Pierre J. Tremblay from Calgary who has done so much research into gay youth and suicide. He is continuing his work in the field of gay and lesbian youth studies along with other work in the related areas. If you have any comments you can e-mail him at: pierre@virtualcity.com)

Help is On The Way G.L.I.S.N.

(Gay and Lesbian
Information Network)

is in the final
stages of setting
up a 24 hour
7 day a week
phone service
for both
Gay Youth
and
Gay & Lesbian
Information
Services

Real People and
not answering
machines will be
available.

(A Times .10 Publications Society
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Living In Leather

We are the largest and most active organization in the world serving the Leather/SM/



Fetish community. We are a diverse group, all enjoying a Leather/SM/Fetish life-style. We are a pansexual group (male, female, transgender, straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual), fun-loving, caring, well-adjusted, educated, focused and politically active organization serving our communities needs. We encourage you to explore our website, learn more about the Leather/SM/Fetish life-style and find a local chapter meeting to attend. Most of all have fun!

The NLA's Statement of Purpose

- A. To establish and maintain a national/international communication, information, education and support network for members of the Leather/SM/Fetish community.
- B. To promote with power and pride the right of all adults to engage in Safe, Sane and Consensual sexual expression and fight for decriminalization of all sexual acts between consenting adults.
- C. To facilitate political activism, visibility and education in order to eradicate stereotypical beliefs, misconceptions and media misrepresentation about the leather/SM/Fetish family in the community at large.
- D. To provide, through publications, educational material and conferences, a forum for the sharing of knowledge, viewpoints and practices of a diverse network of people.
- E. To build, strengthen and defend individuals, organizations, publications and businesses within our community; especially against threats to their freedom of expression, freedom of the press, rights to free association and right to equal protection under the law.
- F. To welcome women, people of color, transgenderals, the deaf, the physically challenged and others who have traditionally been discriminated against or poorly represented within the Leather/SM/Fetish community.
- G. To facilitate fund raising for deserving defense funds, projects, and clubs, organizations, and/or charities which have given direct service to the Leather/SM/Fetish community.
- H. To preserve a record of our history, traditions and culture.

CALGARY CHAPTER EVENTS

October 21 - Topping

Scene safeguards, failures and hot to get what you need from a bottom.

Includes a discussion of consent under fluid situations. Participation.

November 18 - Floggers 101

Bring your floggers and share in learning experiences with this workshop. Demo/ participation on safety and sanity with this popular toy.

December 5 - Year End Awards Ceremony

Dress Leather Formal Dinner at Rooks Dungeon 112 - 16 Avenue N.W.

Tickets are \$12 for Members and \$18 for Non-members. Cash Bar.

January 20, 2000 - AGM

NLA: Calgary's annual general meeting. Social evening will follow the voting of Members for NLA:CC and growth/plans for the coming year.

February 17 - Rituals

Fitting workshop for Valentines with discussion on Branding, tattoo's, piercing, knife play and rites of passage. Demo/ participation.

March 16 - Pyro-tech

A workshop for those with burning desires based on previous and popular workshops including fire, chemical/flash play/scenes. Participation.

April 20 - Fantasy Extreme

Explore age play, human animals (dog/pony),

infantilism, school girl/ boy, medical and religious (bishop/nun) scenes in this great workshop.

May 18 - Leather Relationships

Personal views of how couples make this lifestyle work for them in the multi-layered personal/public/ social/scene associations including contracts and negotiations. Participation.

June 15 - Nuts and Bolts

A review workshop on negotiations, approach and commitment with a twist. Choose a nut or bolt from a hat, find the appropriate match (there will be more than one mate for your nut or bolt) and progress into a fun evening of public protocols and etiquette. **Meeting Time 7:30 p.m.** All info/meetings are held at Rooks, 112-16 Avenue N.W. Meetings are open to any interested person over 18 years of age. Workshops following the meetings are **free to members** but a \$10 fee will apply to ALL non-members.

For the online newsletter see: <http://www.compumart.ab.ca/deanl/nla/NLAnewsleather.html>

EDMONTON CHAPTER

The Leather Community of Edmonton has just initiated the beginnings of an Edmonton Chapter. Information can be requested by contacting Miss Erika at phantomgrl@mailcity.com Website information on NLA Calgary & NLA

http://www.nla-i.com/h_t_t_p://www.compumart.ab.ca/dean/nla/Nlstart.htm

**...Leather Thoughts.....
I've learned...**

...that either you control your attitude or it controls you.
...that regardless of how hot and steamy a relationship is at first, the passion fades and there had better be something else to take its place. ...that maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated. ...that some members of your family may not always be there for you. ...It may seem funny, but people you aren't related to can take care of you and love you and teach you to trust people again. ...Families aren't biological. ...that it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself. ...that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become. ...that two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different. ...that even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you, you will find

Life

the strength to help. ...that the people you care about most in life are taken from you too soon

Others have learned...

...that you can get by on charm for about fifteen minutes. After that, you'd better have a big dick or huge tits. ...that no matter how much I care, some people are just assholes. ...that you shouldn't compare yourself to others - they are more fucked up than you think. ...that it's taking me a long time to sleep with the person I want. ...that either you control your attitude or you will be offered medication. ...that regardless of how hot and steamy a relationship is at first, the passion fades, and there had better be a lot of money to take its place. ...that heroes are the people who do whoever has to be done when they need to be done, regardless of the morning after. ...that maturity is a magazine for old fucks. ...that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for all lost or stolen articles while on the premises. ...that we don't have to ditch bad friends because their dysfunction makes us feel better about ourselves.

Information courtesy of
Calgary Chapter - NLA
National Leather Association
International

2 for 1

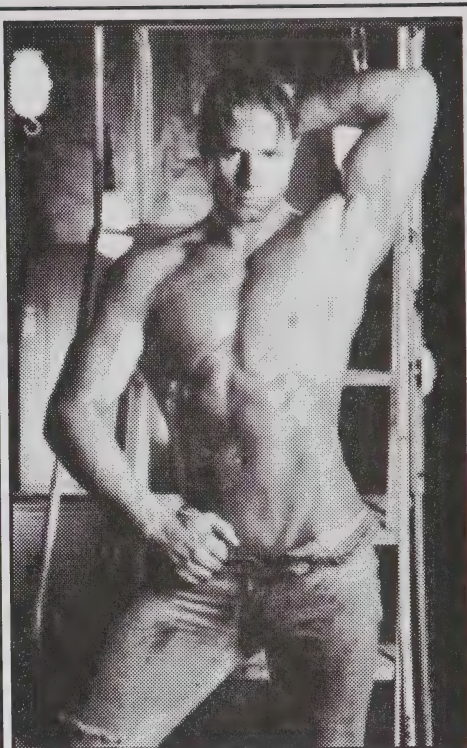
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SOMETHING HOT!**

The E.R.B.A. Report

The Edmonton Rainbow Business Assoc. (ERBA) held its first social event of the fall season early in Sept. — and was reminded that “it’s in the details”. Some folks who had left behind their invitations or were



coming as guests had trouble finding Kelly’s Saloon at Fort Edmonton Park, and so missed the BBQ. We had put a map on the back of the invitation but did not put up signs at the park. Sorry folks — you missed great food from The Bagel Tree (the Aunt Martha’s coffee cake is seriously addicting), interesting conversation and company. Patrick Ryley provided the music and bartending, and Orlando Books and Pride Video graciously agreed to sell the tickets.

What’s next ?

General Meeting
WED. Oct. 13,
Bloomsbury
Room, Orlando Books
7-9pm

WED Nov. 10
22

Annual General Meeting
Bloomsbury Room,
Orlando Books
7-9 p.m.

Solstice Party in December
- details later

Several years ago there was a networking group in Edmonton, called The END Club- (Edmontonians Networking Discreetly). Perhaps their after work, wine and cheese, meet and greet format for interested lesbian and gay business and professionals is something that ERBA might consider. Would it be useful to broaden the ERBA mandate a bit to include non-business folks, who are professionals interested in spending their dollars in the community, and in networking ? The END club usually met at the Edmonton Inn, sometimes had brunch, sometimes speakers. Any thoughts on this, folks, let us know. If it’s a lousy idea, that’s fine — but please be nice when you tell us so. Perhaps non business folks could have a different category of membership, or we might have to change our by-laws... don’t know. Contact ERBA by calling Bill Faulkner, 422 6207.

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KEN VAUGHAN (F.I.I.C.)
PROUD MEMBER OF THE GAY COMMUNITY

Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings

The Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings is just now completing its fourth year of activity. A group for gay men, it's a whole lot more than just sitting around on Wednesday nights drinking coffee and chatting. It's a doorway into the gay community for newcomers striving to put down roots in their new location; support in the struggle to come out. An escape from the trap of loneliness and isolation achieved through such social activities as Friday night dancing, BBQs video nights, potlucks, to name a few.

Programme Of Events - (Updated)

Weekly Events: Every Wednesday from 7:30PM: Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings (@ Breadstick Café, 10159 - 82 Avenue.) Every Friday from 10:00PM: Guys Going Dancing (@ Buddy's Dance Club) Every Monday from 7:30PM to 9:30PM commencing 4 October: Writers Club (@ Hemp Cafe, 10332 - 81 Avenue)

Sunday, 3 October: Dim Sum Sunday - An event hosted for the Long Yang Club. Time: 11:00AM. Location: Pearl City

Restaurant, 10209 - 97 Street. (Lower Level of the Wentworth Building which is kitty-corner to the back of Canada Place). Meet at the entrance of the building. PLEASE CONFIRM that you will attend by the night before with Graham 463-2098. This activity could become a monthly or bi-monthly event if there is sufficient interest. A different restaurant could be visited each time. NOTE: Kevin, the founder of the Long Yang Club, Edmonton is moving to Vancouver. The Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings is temporarily acting as contact and host of LYC events. Please contact Graham through e-mail: gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca or by phone: 463-2098 if you are interested in helping organize LYC events.

Saturday, 16 October from 7:00PM: Video Night. Location: Graham's place, 6424 - 15 Avenue. Movie to be shown: "Another Country". Running time: 90 minutes. This British film from 1984 has gay content, stars Rupert Everett, Colin Firth, (as Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean who in real life ultimately defected to Russia.) and is set in 1930's in an English boarding school "where homosexuality ran rampant". (NOTE: At this date we are expecting a visiting

Long Yang Club member from New York who is into "reflexology" and who is interested in meeting guys "who enjoy having their feet worked on." This event could be expanded into a potluck "Head and Toe Party"!! (Comments please!) Contact: Graham 463-2098 or e-mail: gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Saturday, 13 November from 7:30PM: Video Night at Graham's 6424 - 15 Ave. Movies considered: "Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss" and "Mad about the Boy". Any suggestion as to what movies you would like to see, contact Graham 463-2098 or e-mail: gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca
Saturday, 11 December from 7:30PM: Video Night at

Graham's 6424 - 15 Ave
Saturday, 18 December from 7:30PM: Christmas Potluck Party at Graham's 6424 - 15 Avenue. This event is being organized by Jason and Graham. Full details later.

Year 2000: Video Nights
Saturday, 22 January from 7:30PM.
Saturday, 19 February from 7:30PM.
Saturday, 25 March from 7:30PM.
Saturday, 22 April from 7:30PM.
All the video nights are scheduled for Graham's place, 6424 - 15 Avenue. Visit our Web Page: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Castro/5598>

GMOC

Gay Men's Outreach Crew

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WORKSHOPS

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- **BEING GAY**
(Starting January 28th, 2000)



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Writers Club

There are several successful gay writers in Edmonton. Many more write as a hobby just for the fun of it. The goal is to establish a Writers Club, which will encourage and support the serious writers of the future and at the same time increase, the pleasure of the hobbyists.

Whether you write for fun or fortune, there's a lot to be gained in experiencing the support of a circle of peers at the Writers Club. It is open to everyone writing in any genre.

Some of the paths to explore at the Writers Club:

- * Exchange and critique participant's work
- * Hone editing and revision skills
- * Explore the Writer's Market
- * Answer calls for submissions
- * Try a different genre
- * Attend book readings
- * Improve your talent by reading and discussing self-help books

* Have a interesting night out with your contemporaries!

The Writers Club will meet bi-weekly on Mondays at the Hemp Café, 10332 - 81 Avenue, from 7:30PM to 9:30PM. Starting On Monday October 4th

For more information contact: Graham 463-2098 or e-mail: gwwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Bears Events

We are holding a membership drive/General Meeting in October as well as a bear night at the Georgia Baths.

General Meeting
8:00pm, Friday October 15th
at GLCCE #103, 10612-124th Street. This meeting is open to ALL BEARS and BEAR LOVERS!

Bear Night at the Georgia Baths 7:00pm, Saturday October 16th 9668 Jasper Avenue. We will be showing Bear videos! Regular admission rates will apply.

Any help you could give us, especially in promoting the meeting would be appreciated, as we really need more members.

The Bears of Edmonton and Area Recreational Society
www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/~bears

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Shock Therapy

TEKLA

"Somebody Else (CD single)

Nettwerk Productions
1650 W.2nd Ave
Vancouver BC
www.nettwerk.com

Now this is going to be a short review, as I haven't yet received Teklas' full-length album. But this single is worth mentioning.

Tekla is a Swedish based pop singer, whom I gather from the press release is quite popular in those parts. And why not, the song "Somebody Else" is incredibly catchy. The vocals, best way I can put it are very angelic pop diva. Very much like a cross between ABBA and Madonna. Sounds weird doesn't it? But believe me, it works. This single is sure to storm its way up dance music charts, as well as a nightclub or two I assure. If you are a fan of happy dance music, this disc is for you.

NINE INCH NAILS

"The Fragile"

Nothing (Distributed in Canada by Universal Music)
2450 Victoria Park Ave.
Willowdale, Ont.

www.nin.com
www.nothingrecords.com

After a lengthy break between albums, Trent is back. And once again, he's pissed. I don't

know how to best describe this album, other than a dark Pink Floyd album created for the apocalypse. Heavy guitars, blistering electronics & sonic soundscapes in usual NIN fashion, propel this album. What Mr.

Reznor has done with this album is create an experience for the listener. There is no "Closer" on this double disc set (thank goodness!), and the radio/dance floor anthems are far and few in between. This album appears to be made for the listener for and from the artist. I think Trent made the album he wanted to make. Noteworthy tracks include "Somewhat Damaged", "Starfuckers, Inc.", "Into The Void" and the title track, "The Fragile". That's not to say that the rest of the album sucks, cause it doesn't, it's just that those tracks were the ones that jumped out at me. Sure to be a popular album with current NIN

fans, it should also rekindle interest from older fans as well. Hopefully we'll get an Edmonton date on the new tour.

For those with a yearning for some quality LIVE electronic music, check out the return of Vancouver's LANDSCAPE BODY MACHINE Oct. 9 @ Rebar. Erceus Exit & DJ Pandemonium open the show. Great hard-edged

Elektro, with a DJ whom beat mixes his Industrial, should provide for a great evening.

*Hugs & kisses, welts
and wishes.....nik*

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My Monthly Neurosis

Shawn Mooney's column in the last Times 10 reminded me that of all my pet peeves, my biggest PO in the gay community is attitude. I speak here of the posers at the bar (look at me, I'm sooo pretty); of the guys at the baths who seem to ooze "I'm horny enough to pay my money but no one is good enough to do me"; of the men who can't go out if they don't have a brand new D&G outfit to wear. To them I say, get over yourselves! Shania said it best: "that don't impress me much."

Now I can be as shallow as they come. There are often times I like to fling attitude, if only to mock it. But Adonis I am not. Nor are most people. To limit this to the physical for a second, few people are sooo gorgeous that they can genuinely justify better-than-thou attitude. Every single person on this planet is beautiful to someone. It's that "As Good As It Gets" thing, where if you look at someone long enough, you discover their humanity.

The thing about posers is, you know it's just because they're insecure and need the spotlight (this coming from an attention queen!).

What they don't seem to realize is that copping attitude only draws attention to their faults and their fragility. Let's face it, we all like to be looked at and admired, but floating across the dance floor and hopping onto a speaker all shirtless-like and going like mad is really not attractive.

There has to be reality out there somewhere. Real guys. With depth. The gay community is more than an endless parade of slack but pretty faces, fashionable clothes, and people too afraid of intimacy to drop the facade for even a second. I sometimes sit there just watching the posing and I wonder what that "something more" could be. The attitude that turns me off could cover up a decency and a depth that could make that person a really good friend. But life's too short for me to take the time to break through your walls.

For me, five minutes of intimacy is infinitely more satisfying than five hours of false smiles and ego. I just can't be bothered anymore, because I've learned that the people who let the false front drop are the ones who

count. They're the ones I want to know. They're the ones I can let into my little world. As for the rest, I can only hope that one day, when the attitude wears thin, I'll still be around to get to know the man behind the mask. Because true

friendship has no need for masks. Because friends are more important than anything else, people to trust, people to laugh with, people to love. Being open to friendship is the

only attitude I want to see.

Agree with me? Disagree? Feel like venting on something else entirely? Email me at my_neurosis@hotmail.com (next month, my neurosis could be you!)

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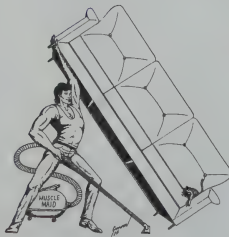
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Speaking Of Normal

By Liz Massiah, Msw,
RSW

Lately I have heard and had many conversations about 'doing it the right way', usually with the implication is that the speaker's way is the 'right' one and the 'others' are 'wrong'. This is in the context of individuals talking about friends or family, as well as group members speaking of members of other groups. As usual, I have been thinking about these conversations in the context of my work as a therapist, and as a community member.

While pondering these conversations, I serendipitously came upon this comment:

"People who lack a strong bond will settle for a pseudo-bond (loyalty, conformity or engulfment) which is reaffirmed by setting up enemies." (Thomas J. Scheff, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Sociology, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA.) It comes from an email list regarding shame.

You might wonder how this relates to our community? Well, if, as this comment suggests, those who are not secure in their emotional bond with themselves, or their families, in their sense of our community as worthy and secure, settle for pseudo or pretend bonds, what might be the influence of pretend bonds? These unhealthy bonds demand extreme loyalty, conforming closely to written and unwritten rules and ways of being. So we

must have a closed sense of who we are; how we do things is the right way. And we must be prepared to absolutely defend that to the "others".

Healthy bonds let us know who we are but do not require us to make enemies of 'others'... we can just let them be different and can both be safe.

If shame is about social bonding, and our degrees of likeness and differences are challenges to social bonding, then perhaps some of the blaming, shaming and criticizing we experience is about managing our shame. It helps to keep our own shame at bay, and emphasizes the enemy status of the 'other.'

Some say that much of what causes trouble in our community is internalized homophobia. But what that really is about is shame for being who we are. It is true, we do live with and have absorbed within our souls messages of hatred directed at homosexuals as a group. Let me suggest that our community is also impacted by our own individual issues of shame... from growing up abused, from being the child of an alcoholic parent, from being sexually assaulted, from physical or mental differences, religion etc.

Each individual who makes up the community has her or his own experiences that contribute to blaming,

shaming, to setting up 'not me' and creating enemies.

When someone hurts my group, or me does something that makes me want to hide, to punish in anger... its tough to wonder how that person learned to be like that. What were the experiences led to that style of relating... how does it tie into that person's efforts to manage her or his own shame?

A profound belief of mine is that each of us is doing our darndest to get through each day as well as we can. This is not to accept all behaviors... abuse,



exploitation, violence, even if its the best we can do that day, must change.

Declaring the others as "enemies" accomplishes little. Not in our community you say - what about women not wanting to be at GLCEE very much; what about one church not supporting

another; one bar not doing "x" if that other bar does it; what about refusing to talk to this person cause they talked with that person - add to the list yourself.

What do you think... how does this resonate for you, as an individual, as a community member...? How can we better stand up to demands of loyalty that are rigid, inflexible and not healthy; how can we find more ways to acknowledge that we are each trying our darndest, rather than pointing fingers at the "others", and retreating righteously when the finger is pointed at us. How can we work, not harder, but more effectively at finding respectful, caring and accountable ways of being with one another? How can we manage our own shame issues better so we don't have to have so many enemies? How can we stop fearing our shame, stop running from it, so that we can stand together? I am simply putting out some thoughts and ideas hoping to generate reflection and discussion

Send your suggestions - I will print them here, along with the growing list of ways of 'doing Pride'.

(All ideas are those of the author. They are not intended to replace consultation with an accredited, registered professional.)

Get to the "Beefcake"

By Gens Hellquist

Growing up as a young fag on the Canadian Prairies could be a lonely and isolating experience. Discovering the existence of beefcake or physique magazines somewhat caused that sense of isolation. After all, if these magazines are available at the corner drug store, it must mean that there are other people out there who also enjoy looking at pictures of nearly naked men. I can't be the only one of them.

The magazines mainly consisted of photographs of young males wearing little more than a posing strap. The discovery of them helped develop a sense that I was not alone in my feelings. While the magazines sometimes claimed to be devoted to physical culture and fitness, I knew otherwise. They were produced for people like me, guys like me who were interested in relationships with other men. While it took a number of years to finally meet another gay person, those beefcake magazines provided me with assurances that I was not alone.

In his latest move "Beefcake", Canadian filmmaker Thom Fitzgerald, director of *The Hanging Garden*, takes us back to those days in the 50's and 60's. He gives us a glimpse into the life of Bob Miser, and a handful of other men who pioneered the all-male, all-buff, nearly naked world of physique magazines.

Miser was one of the firsts to take photographs of young men and package them in a way that would make them accessible to gay men across North America. "Beefcake" if filmed in a mock documentary style using real photos of the original models. He also interviews some of the original models and stages re-enactment of some of the events that occurred during the making of this early gay male erotica.

Miser is working during the time of McCarthy, when Communists and Queers were presented as the real threat to the survival of civilization. Miser ended up going to jail for six months on the charges of pimping, even though no evidence was

introduced to indicate that he received any money for connecting his models with other gay men who would pay money for sex.

Miser was certainly an odd man who lived at home with his mother for most of his life. His mother assisted in the operation by sewing the little posing straps that models wore during the photo shoots. She also mothered the models and ran the company while Miser served his jail time. Miser's brother acted as accountant for the business.

I found "Beefcake" to be a delightful reminder of my past and the beginnings of a more visible gay community. Some scenes were eerily reminiscent of my own teenage years. It was enjoyable to once again see photos of some of the young men who gave me hours of enjoyment locked away in my bedroom.

"Beefcake" will be appearing in Edmonton at 7 P.M., Saturday October 16th at the Garneau Theatre. It is a part of the No Name Fundraiser and a good portion of the proceeds will go towards giving assistance to people living with HIV or AIDS for Christmas week. If you are a little bit older you will

enjoy this film for no other reason than the memories. Younger people will get a glimpse of what things used to be like and perhaps gain a better understanding of the way things are today. Enjoy!

(Reprinted with permission from Gens, who has spent the last sixteen years as the volunteer co-ordinator of Canada's Prairie Magazine - Perceptions)

"Beefcake"
will be
playing at
the
Garneau
Theatre,
Saturday,
Oct.
16th
at 7PM,
as a part
of the
No Name
Fundraiser

Guys Going Dancing

A frequent point of distress expressed by many newcomers to the city, and by gay men just coming out, has been the difficulty of finding someone to dance with when they visit the clubs. At that point of time, these men have said that for them relationships and sexual encounters were not as important as making friendships and establishing their comfort level in the gay community of Edmonton. On Friday, 5 March 1999 the Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings launched another weekly activity. It is called

GUYS GOING DANCING.

Every Friday night you'll find us at Buddy's Dance Club, 10112 - 124 Street, Edmonton from 10:00PM when the DJ starts the music until the stripper shows all at around 1:00AM. The hardier ones stay until the lights go out! When we're not on the dance floor, we're at a table right beside it.

To join us contact Graham (780) 463-2098. By e-mail: gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

And check out the web page of the Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings for a list of our other activities: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Castro/5598>

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With our experience and knowledge in planning vacations for the gay & lesbian traveler, our office will be sure to make preparations for your trip both relaxing and fun.

Breaking Away

So, its Wednesday evening, and your at home frantically trying to prepare for the big business trip you have to depart for at 7am tomorrow morning. Your stressed out about your business presentation, worried about the flight and wanting desperately to get to sleep so you are able to wake up in time to get to the airport in time. Well, sit back, relax and enjoy this article; dedicated to providing the business traveler with some simple tips on making your trip relaxed and maybe even fun.

My number one piece of advice to any gay or lesbian business traveler planning a business trip in the near future is to do a tiny bit of research before you go. Now, I'm not suggesting that you gather enough information to write a ten page report, but simply obtaining the destinations local gay & lesbian publication can go a long way for you. They can provide you with much

of the cities gay and lesbian supporting business', as well as give you an idea of what the city can offer you. Many of these publications are available in Edmonton, such as those for Vancouver and Toronto. Others can be found by contacting the papers editing manager and asking for a copy to be mailed to you. If you do not know the name of the paper or magazine, it can usually be found through the cities gay and lesbian information service.

If you are able to choose your own hotel, finding a good hotel that is located near your place of business is probably going to be important to you. It is a good idea to ensure that, when looking for a hotel, you find one that has features that will help you to relax. If working out relaxes you, find one that has a gym. If you like to relax in a quiet lounge with a drink, ensure that your hotel has a quiet lounge instead of a loud dance bar. Reputable hotels

that cater to gay and lesbian clientele can be found in pretty much all



major cities. For many, that may provide a feeling of safety, making relaxation that much easier.

It is a good idea to find a place where you can go and relax before and after your business meeting. Again, what that is depends on your tastes. For many, a nice park with flowers and ponds will do. Others may prefer a scenic street filled with old Victorian homes and obscure shoppes. If you are in a coastal city, somewhere near the oceanfront may calm you. Once you know the type of area that you are

looking for, find out if it is available in the city. Your travel agent should be able to assist you with this. If possible, try to arrange it so that your accommodations are near this spot.

My final advise to you is to keep in mind that while you may be on a stressful business trip, you are also breaking the monotony of what can be a very routine job. You are traveling to a foreign city with lots of different sights and sounds that you may have never seen before. You are being given the opportunity to get away for a couple of days, and while you may be working, you can still use the trip to relax and re-find yourself. Enjoy it.

If you are planning a business trip of any other trip in the near future, and you need help in the planning, please call Jacy at Harold Smith Travel in Eaton Centre. 488-4712

Travel Trivia

The name of this North American city, popular with the business traveler, is translated from the Indian language to mean "meeting place".

Answer - Toronto

Jacy Dobrich

You're Not Listening!

By Dr. Charles Bidwell

If you've never said or thought those words, then skip this article; you're probably either an accomplished communicator or insensitively unaware. But for most of us, clear communication is the foundation of all our relationships and we don't do it well.

Many of us have the greatest difficulty communicating our feelings. And there are several reasons for this. Regardless of the reasons, we need to grow beyond them and get better at

being clear in communicating our feelings. But for the curious, I'll suggest two causes of our poor communication skills:

1. Early training in our family – As we grew up we learned from the others in our family how and what to communicate. Often feelings and emotions were not allowed to be talked about or expressed. When we did share our feelings we were told "That's not a nice thing to say." Or "You don't really mean that, do you!" or "Don't say such things about _____." We were expected to solve our own problems, lick our wounds and "be nice". When we were asked, "How are you?" we quickly learned that the proper response was

"Fine", regardless of how we were really feeling. Boys were specifically trained not to express feelings and so men today can tell you what they did, but not how they felt.

2. Dogmatic parent(s) – As we were growing up, there may have been an authoritarian parent who was the boss and required that you do what they said no matter what you thought or felt. "Because I said so!" was their dictum and there were to be no further questions asked. We were not heard. None listened to us and so we stopped communicating and started denying our thoughts and feelings. There were messages that our opinion didn't count and so today we believe that what we have to say is not important. This led

us to close down our communication of feelings and even to deny that we have any. In the face of dogmatic authority, many of us learned to play it safe and never communicate our opinions and feelings.

Expressing Feelings

Feelings are a normal part of living and everyone experiences them. Problems arise when we don't express them or even talk about them. Denying and ignoring our emotional experiences can lead to physical, emotional and mental health problems. Emotions trigger bodily reactions of increased blood pressure, muscle contraction and faster heart beats. If the causative emotions are not addressed so that the body can return to a more normal

Continued on page 32

Anniversary

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You're Not Listening

Continued from page 31

functioning state, then the stress disrupts the body's functioning for a longer period of time. Built up or denied emotional stress can lead to restless sleep and decreased appetite and that can reduce the effectiveness of our immune defense system. That can lead to loss of energy and spirit and even to illness. So let's learn how to communicate our feelings — at least for our health, if not our happiness.

Communication Tips

Start from a base of telling yourself that you are important and that your concerns and feelings are worth sharing. Love yourself as you love your listener. Respect yourself as you respect the person you are sharing your ideas and emotions with.

Next, be clear about what you want to say and what you want to gain from the talk. Be direct. It's okay to say "I want ..." If you are anxious about how to express your concern or afraid that you will lose your key message because of the emotional nature of the conversation, then make notes ahead of time about what you want to say and what you want to change or gain from the talk. Remember that communication is made up of talking and listening. How you talk will affect how they listen and how you listen will affect the success of your talk. "You're not listening!" applies to both of you.

To Be an Effective Talker:

1. Consider the time and

place. Hold your conversation in a quiet, comfortable place and at a time that is convenient for both of you. Make sure the other person has the time and will not be rushed and distracted by needing to hurry away. Consider having you talk in a neutral place where you each have some control over ending the conversation if one of you want to do that. A trapped listener cannot give you their full attention; they're calculating how they can get free.

2. Be specific. Being general and vague is not helpful. Be clear and direct about what you feel and want. Use specific examples so the other person can understand exactly what is concerning you. Make "I" statements, like, "I want you to help me keep the cat of the table." "I feel disrespected when you leave without saying goodbye."

3. Share your feelings and emotions. You are in control of your emotions so no environment or individual can force you to feel a certain way. Be true to your feelings as they come from within you. Don't say "Yes" when you feel "No". Be honest and say "I feel ... (a w k w a r d , uncomfortable, anxious, e t c .) " No one should ever tell you that you do not have whatever feelings you express. If you say, "I feel exposed" nobody should discount or deny your feeling. No one should respond "No you

don't; you're just ..." Don't let them speak for you.

To Be an Effective Listener:

1. Make eye contact. Look at the person who is speaking to you — unless you are driving a vehicle at the time and in that case you are not paying enough attention to the conversation and would be better off pulling over, stopping and focusing on the conversation. [See Tip #1 above.] If your eyes are wandering, then you're looking for something other than the speaker's ideas. It's a



compliment and it's respectful to show your speaker that you are paying full attention and want to understand their message.

2. Use non-verbal signs. Not looking at them is a non-verbal sign that says "something else is more interesting" or "I'm looking for something more interesting". Nodding your head in agreement or leaning forward can show interest. Also notice the body language of the person speaking. Facial expressions, posture, gestures and other actions give clues to what

they are feeling.

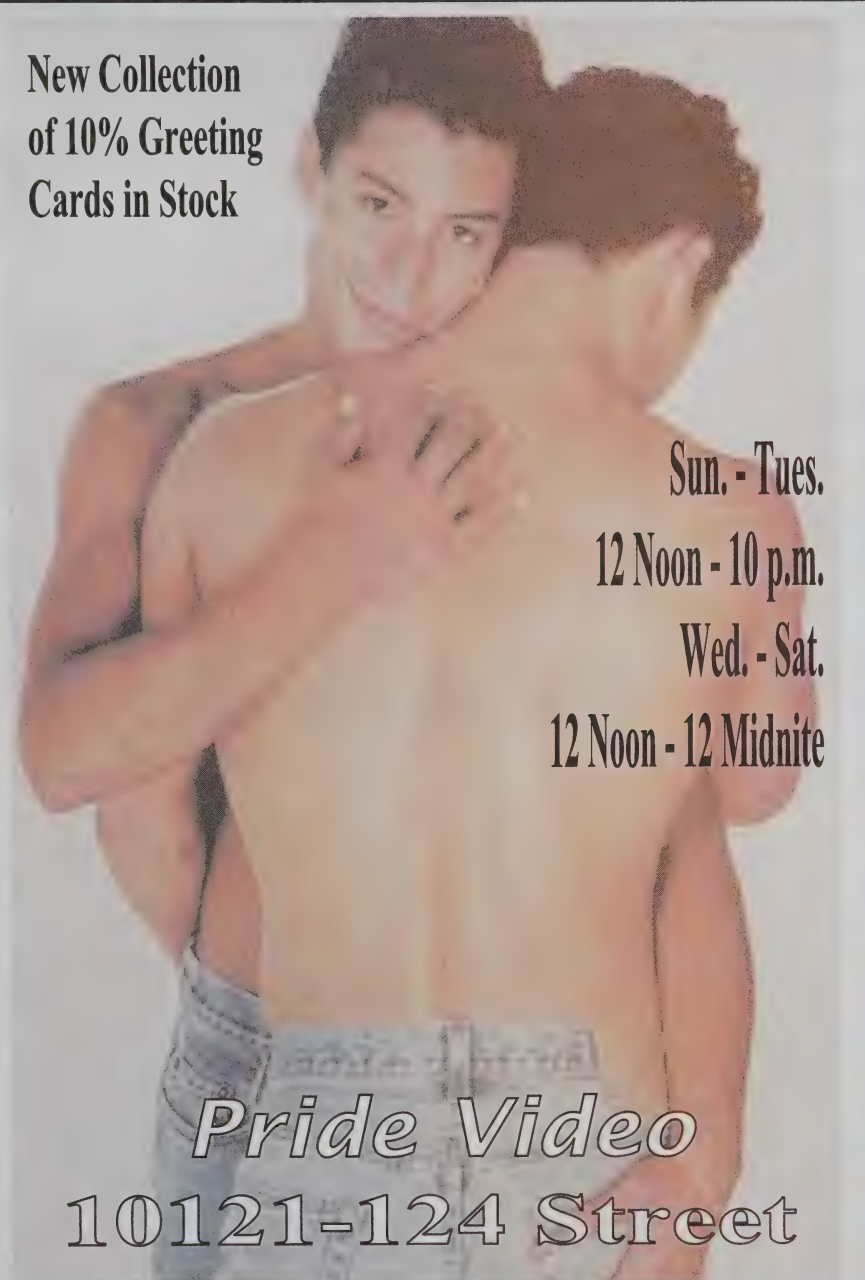
3. Avoid distractions. Give your full attention, even if you have to turn off the TV, leave the computer, stop the car, etc. Get out of a noisy or crowded space, close the door, do whatever you have to do to avoid being distracted. And don't play with things (rings, keys, hair, etc.) while they are talking; that distracts them.
4. Do not interrupt the speaker. "Silent" and "listen" use the same letters and you can't really listen if you are thinking of a reply so quickly that you barge in with it before hearing the other person to the end of their statements.

High Stress Situations Need Special Attention

If you have difficulty expressing emotionally stressful information, then take these steps:

1. Be selective in what you share; decide what is most important for your listener to know. Don't ramble on with unnecessary information; be brief and focussed and let them ask for more information if the need or want it.
2. Use simple words and speak as calmly as you can.
3. Make one point at a time. A "grocery list" on complaints is overwhelming and leaves the listener confused as to what to deal with first.

(Dr. Charles Bidwell is an ordained clergy with Metropolitan Community Church.)



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Celebrate the First Gay March on Washington

By Eric Rofes

As the debates escalate about a gay convergence on Washington, D.C. in April 2000, veteran community organizers are commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the first one, the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Liberation. That event drew 100,000 people to the streets of the District of Columbia on October 14, 1979, at a moment in our community's history vastly different from the one we occupy today. As I thumb through my scrapbook and archives of organizing materials from that effort, and as I listen to the record and the videotapes produced capturing the '79 march, a range of memories and conflicted feelings rush through me. Clearly, the world has changed in our lifetimes.

In 1979, I was a 24-year-old schoolteacher and member of Boston's radical Gay Community News collective. That winter, a group of collective members rented a car and drove through the New England snows to what would become an historic event at the Quaker Meeting House in Philadelphia. Converging that weekend were over 200 grassroots activists from throughout the nation who came together to debate whether or not to launch the massive organizing effort we knew it would take to bring our rank-and-file to Washington.

I am surprised how much I recall about that weekend. The frigid winter air became electric as out gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activists met counterparts from other locales (yes, bi and trans organizers were there from the start). Women's music met disco clones; revolutionary socialists linked arms with the nascent gay leadership of the Democratic Party; smug San Franciscans sat side-by-side with smug New Yorkers. While voices were present aiming to interrupt the energy flow towards marching, it was clear from

Christian, and Tom Robinson, and comic Robin Tyler. As the fundraising pitch was made, we march organizers grabbed big plastic Hefty bags and walked through the masses as people filled them with money. We stashed them in a nearby trailer which served as our on-site headquarters and, as the rally wound down, gathered them up and dashed to Washington's Women's Bank where we counted money into the wee hours of the next day.

The 1979 march stands as the single pre-AIDS mass event, which attempted to unify lesbian and gay

the march Reagan was elected president, beginning almost two decades of the Reagan-Bush-Gingrich regime that opposed our movement at almost every turn. At the same time, the plague era began and soon took the lives of some of the best organizers of the 1979 march.

We could not have mobilized as we did against the rising tide of Reagan's Religious Right and the scourge of AIDS, without the 1979 march. Critical alliances forged through that organizing process between women and men, the networks developed in communities of color, the political organizations founded in its aftermath, became literal lifelines to which we clung as we were swept into a cyclone more horrific than any of us had imagined. The fact that twenty years after our first March on Washington, some of us remain to recall its ambitions and continue the grunt work of organizing towards a more equitable world, is a tribute to the ideals proclaimed at the Quaker Meeting House in Philadelphia that snowy winter weekend.

(Eric Rofes is a long-time activist and the author, most recently, of Dry Bones Breathe: Gay Men Creating Post-Aids Identities And Cultures (Haworth Press, 1998). He hopes to hear from surviving organizers from the 1979 march at erofes@aol.com.)



the outset that the chamber was filled with men and women eager to ratify a call to march. The 60s were still alive for many of us, and marches on our nation's capital retained tremendous symbolic power: to hit the radar screen as a national movement demanded a pilgrimage to Washington.

The march itself rushed by in a blur as thousands upon thousands poured into the streets waving banners identifying their hometowns. Our own community-based stars headlined the stage including writers Allen Ginsberg and Kate Millet, musicians Holly Near, Meg

organizers, whose work overwhelmingly had been based in local communities into a coordinated national force. Hence the organizing tells a great deal about the directions our movement had taken in the brief decade following Stonewall and serves as a snapshot of so-called "gay power" at the moment before AIDS struck. I am consistently surprised by the writings of revisionist journalists who describe the pre-AIDS gay community as powerful, well organized, and well funded. Clinging to the idealism of social movements of the 1960s, we were unaware of the one-two punch that was about to strike. A year after

GLAAD Alert

Harper's Magazine: Matthew Shepard and Compulsory Heterosexuality

In its September 1999 issue, Harper's Magazine re-examines the Matthew Shepard murder from a provocative new angle: rather than focusing on the sexual orientation of the victim, frequent Harper's contributor JoAnn Wypijewski looks closely at the sexual orientations of the killers and the environment which may have helped shape them. Wypijewski's excellent in-depth look at the culture of "compulsory heterosexuality" defies easy categorization - it neither demonizes Shepard's killers nor venerates their victim, choosing instead to look at the history, character and culture of Wyoming and the social forces that simultaneously buckle under the weight of and reinforce institutionalized homophobia.

In language showing some disdain for the tepid concept of "tolerance," Wypijewski examines the pressure to conform to masculine heterosexual norms - a pressure she believes not only causes homophobia, but also damages heterosexual men. "Among the tolerance peddlers, it's always the 'lifestyle' of the gay guy," she writes, "never the 'lifestyle' of the straight guy or the culture of compulsory heterosexuality." She proceeds to quote a University of Wyoming student in a discussion with a woman opposed to violence, but who was convinced that homosexuality is immoral. "The issue isn't tolerance,"

he said. "We don't need to learn tolerance; we need to learn love." For Wypijewski, love is not just an abstract concept - it is "life's defining line," one held firm by "all the little things of a culture."

20/20 Gives a Voice to Homeless Gay Youth

ABC News' 20/20 opened its 1999-2000 season with an extensive segment called "Throwaway Teens," which examined the plights of three homeless lesbian and gay youth who have been thrown out of their homes on account of their sexual orientations. The segment opens with a young man walking: "He spends his days going nowhere," explains 20/20's Connie Chung. "Barely visible to the people he passes, he matters to no one. [H]e is homeless, fending for himself, far from anything he ever knew." Later, Chung explains that the youth, Daniel, "is certain that he was thrown out [of his family's house] because he is gay. I sent on his way without tears, without even a goodbye." Forced to find livelihood, Daniel admits that he has turned to prostitution during rough times. In the end, he says, "I miss my home. I'd like to tell my mom and my family that I love them and that I wish that they would accept me for who I am and just love me again."

At times, the segment seemed needlessly sensationalistic - with examples including gritty and blurred street footage and one teaser, which broke to commercial with a description of these youth as "so young and struggling to survive. The price of being gay". Furthermore, in spite of some passing references to the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center and a brief camera tour of the Hetrick-Martin Institute (HMI), the general tone of the piece seemed almost hopeless.

Comments selected from interviews with HMI Executive Director Verna Eggleston were insightful and apropos, but focused on the plight and not the solution. With this as the first substantial foray into the topic by any major television program, it is understandable that 20/20 would emphasize the under covered dilemmas of this community. But noticeably lacking were the voices of those lesbian, gay (and especially) bisexual and transgender adults who survived homelessness and were quite literally saved by the efforts of groups such as HMI and the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center. In spite of such concerns, however, the piece's overall intention was certainly laudable, and producers were most successful in bringing understanding of the problem and sympathy for the plight

of youth like Daniel, Ginger and Ron. Furthermore, the youth themselves were the focus of the piece, and were given the opportunity to speak out in their own voices - something that happens all too rarely in the media.

Contact: Mr. Victor Neufeld, Executive Producer, 20/20, 147 Columbus Ave., New York, NY 10023, fax: 212.456.0533, e-mail: 2020@abcnews.com.

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told them "That must be the door, I'll get it!"

The Convict

An escaped convict broke into a house and tied up a young couple who had been sleeping in the bedroom. As soon as he had a chance, the husband turned to his voluptuous, young wife, who was bound up on to the bed in a skimpy nightgown, and whispered, "Honey, this guy hasn't seen a woman in years. Just cooperate with anything he wants. If he wants to have sex with you, just go along with it and pretend you like it. Our lives depend on it."

"Dear," the wife hissed, spitting out her gag, "I'm so relieved you feel that way, because he just told me he thinks you're really cute!"

Dumb Cowboy Joe...

A cowboy rides up to a saloon, goes inside and orders a drink.

He's just about got the glass of whiskey to his lips, when a guy comes running up to the door, and yells "Hey Joe! Your house is burnin!" The man leaps up, runs out and jumps on his horse just as he thinks... "Hey, I don't have a house."

He goes back in and sits down, and raises the glass to his lips again. Just then a man comes running up to the door and yells "Hey Joe! Your dad has died!" So he leaps up, runs out, gets on his horse and starts to head down the street when he thinks... "Wait a minute, my dad died years ago."

He goes back to the bar, and sure enough, he's just about

to take a sip of his whiskey when another guy runs up. "Joe! Congratulations! You've won the lottery! There's a pile of money waiting for you down at the post office!" The cowboy gets up, leaps on the horse, and starts flying towards the post office. He almost gets there when he thinks, "Hey, wait a minute. My name ain't Joe..."

Bet Your Age

A lady is having a bad day at the roulette tables in Las Vegas. She's down to her last \$50. Exasperated, she exclaims, "What rotten luck! What in the world should I do now?" A man standing next to her, trying to calm her down, suggests, "I don't know... Why don't you play your age?"

He walks away. Moments later, his attention is grabbed by a great commotion at the roulette table. Maybe, she won! He rushes back to the table and pushes his way through the crowd. The lady is lying limp on the floor, with the table operator kneeling over her. The man is stunned. He asks, "What happened? Is she all right?"

The operator replies, "I don't know. She put all her money on 29. When 36 came up, then she just fainted!"

Trial for murder

A defendant was on trial for murder. There was strong evidence indicating guilt, but there was no corpse. In the defense's closing statement the lawyer, knowing that his client would probably be convicted, resorted to a trick. "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for

you all," the lawyer said as he looked at his watch.

"Within one minute, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into this courtroom." He looked toward the courtroom door. The jurors, somewhat stunned, all looked on eagerly. A minute passed. Nothing happened. Finally the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement. But you all looked on with anticipation. I therefore put to you that you have a reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed and insist that you return a verdict of not guilty." The jury, clearly confused, retired to deliberate. A few minutes

later, the jury returned and pronounced a verdict of guilty. "But how?" inquired the lawyer. "You must have had some doubt; I saw all of you stare at the door." The jury foreman replied: "Oh, we did look, but your client didn't."

Speeding Car

A highway patrolman pulled alongside a speeding car on the freeway. Glancing at the car, he was astounded to see that the blonde behind the wheel was knitting!

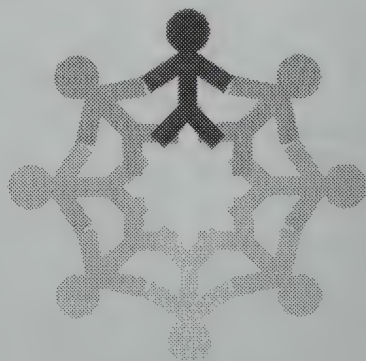
The trooper cranked down his window and yelled to the driver, "PULL OVER!"

"NO!" the blonde yelled back, "SCARF

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Do all Fairy Tales begin?

A little girl asked her father, "Daddy? Do all Fairy Tales begin with Once Upon A Time?"

And he replied, "No, there is a whole series of Fairy Tales that begin with 'If Elected I promise...'"

Quotable

Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional!!!

Can you believe how many award shows they have now? They even have awards for commercials—The Cleo Awards—a whole show full of commercials. I taped it and then fast-forwarded through the whole thing.

A policeman arrives at the scene of an accident, in which a car smashed into a tree. The cop rushes over to the vehicle and asks the driver, "Are you seriously hurt?" "How do I know?" the driver responds. "I'm not a lawyer!"

Peaches

The old farmer was having a pretty bad year. All of his crops had been lost. Fortunately, the peach orchard had done really well. The only way he was going to make it financially was to cut out the middleman and sell the peaches directly to the consumer. So he loaded his pickup with peaches and headed to town.

Just on the outskirts of town he came to a house. So he took a basket of peaches and went up and knocked on the door.

A gorgeous blond in a sheer robe answered the door. In a sexy voice she said, "Hi, Honey, what can I do for you?"

Quite shaken, the old farmer muttered, "I have these here really nice peaches for sale". The blond, noticing how shaken he was, decided to play a bit. So she opened the top of her robe showing her breasts. She said, "Are those peaches full and firm like these?" Very shaken, he managed to whisper, "Oh yes, they're really good peaches." So she opened the rest of her robe, showing she had on no panties. She teased, "Would they be succulent and delicious like this?" The old farmer mumbled, and then broke down crying, and said, "Oh yes, they're wonderful peaches." She said, "Well, honey, why on earth are you crying?"

The old farmer whimpered "Lady, the cut worms ruined my tomato crop and the weevils ate all my cotton and now I think you're gonna screw me out of my peaches."

Real Beers

There's a big conference of beer producers in the most beautiful town in the world: Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

At the end of the day, all of the presidents of all beer companies decide to have a drink in a bar. The president of 'Budweiser' orders a Bud, the president of 'Miller' orders a Miller Lite, Adolph Coors orders a Coors, and the list goes on. Then the

waitress asks Arthur Guinness what he wants to drink, and much to everybody's amazement, Mr. Guinness orders a Coke! "Why don't you order a Guinness?" his colleagues ask. "Naah. If you guys won't drink beer, than neither will I."

Ten Dollahs

Stumpy Grider and his wife Martha were from Portland, Maine. Every year they went to the Portland Fair, and every year Stumpy said "Ya know Mahtha, Ah'd like ta get a ride in that theah aihplane". An every year Martha would say, "Ah know, Stumpy, but that aihplane ride costs ten dollahs...and ten dollahs is ten dollahs". So Stumpy says "By Jeebers Mahtha, I'm 71 yeahs old, if I don't go this time I may nevah go". Martha replies, "Stumpy, that theah aihplane ride is ten dollahs...and ten dollahs is ten dollahs".

So the pilot overhears them and says, "Folks, I'll make you a deal, I'll take you both up for a ride, and if you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say ONE word, I won't charge you, but just one word and it's ten dollars".

They agree and up they go...the pilot does all kinds of twists and turns, rolls and dives, but not a word is heard; he does it one more time, still nothing...so he lands.

He turns to Stumpy as they come to a stop and says, "By golly, I did everything I could think of to make you hollar out, but you didn't!" And Stumpy replies, "Well, Ah was gonna say something when Mahtha fell out...but ten

dollahs is ten dollahs!"

Take Your Iron

One fine day, Jim, and Bob are out golfing. Jim slices his ball deep into a wooded ravine. He grabs his 8-iron and proceeds down the embankment into the ravine in search of his ball.

The brush is quite thick, but Jim searches diligently and suddenly he spots something shiny. As he gets closer, he realizes that the shiny object is in fact an 8-iron in the hands of a skeleton lying near an old golf ball. Jim excitedly calls out to his golfing partner: "Hey Bob, come here, I got trouble down here." Bob comes running over to the edge of the ravine and calls out: "What's the matter Jim?" Jim shouts back in a nervous voice: "Throw me my 7-iron! You can't get out of here with an 8-iron."

Three Ladies Getting Old

Three older ladies were discussing the travails of getting older. One said, "Sometimes I catch myself with a jar of mayonnaise in my hand in front of the refrigerator and can't remember whether I need to put it away, or start making a sandwich."

The second lady chimed in, "Yes, some times I find myself on the landing of the stairs and can't remember whether I was on my way up or on my way down."

The third one responded, "Well, I'm glad I don't have that problem; knock on wood," as she rapped her knuckles on the table, then

Long Yang Club - Edmonton

Long Yang Club, Edmonton is affiliated to similar groups worldwide within the Long Yang Club Global Village. Your membership in one is recognized by all Long Yang Clubs throughout the world. This allows your participation in the local activities wherever you travel and a LYC club is located. For an up-to-date list of these clubs browse the World Directory at LYC Global Village: www.longyangclub.org

LYC Edmonton seeks to offer a safe, supportive and social environment for gay Asians as well as their non-Asian friends and partners. It promotes understanding and acceptance between gays from East and West.

Presently LYC Edmonton is very much in the formative stage seeking members to help it become a vibrant, vital part of an open, friendly gay community in Edmonton.

With the founder of LYC Edmonton moving to Vancouver, the Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings is presently hosting and sharing events with and for the Edmonton Club. For a complete list of the events being planned visit the web page of the Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings at: www.geocities.com/

WestHollywood/Castro/5598

To participate in the growth of LYC Edmonton and to enjoy the shared upcoming events contact Graham 463-2098 or e-mail: gwwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the organization about?

This is an organization that caters to gay Asians and interested non-Asians to provide a supportive and friendly environment.

How did LYC get its name?

Long Yang Club is named after "Lord Long Yang". He was a gay character in the Chinese book of legends, "Dream of the Red Mansions". In some ways, he was an Asian version of "Oscar Wilde" or "Harvey Milk".

How was LYC founded?

The first group was founded in London in 1983 and has become the world's largest gay "East-West" group. There are now over 30 LYC chapters in 10 countries and 5 continents to date. Other LYCs in Canada are located in Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. The membership of each LYC chapter is honoured by all other chapters around the world.

What events do LYC

chapters host?

It varies with the groups. Activities include: potlucks, theme parties, BBQs, dining out, trips, Karaoke, picnics, discos, sports events, talent shows, language classes, and so on..

Are LYC chapters on the WWW?

Most LYC chapters have a website. In addition, the LYC GLOBAL VILLAGE covers news and events from LYC chapters worldwide. The URL is: www.longyangclub.org

Edmonton contact for more information and events: Graham 463-2098 or e-mail: gwwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

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be the first time in international gay and lesbian history that such a mega concert and gay dance extravaganza is held all-night in the middle of a big city stadium. This main event is now the world's largest all-night gay event in one single indoor venue, with an expected attendance of over 20,000 participants from all over the planet, mostly from the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia and South America.

While the Black & Blue benefit is renowned for its very high quality sound, lights and special effects, the Millennium-themed event this year, called "COSMOS 1999". The event also features a concert in the stadium at the beginning of the night, with key artists such as Kristine W., Funky Green Dogs, Celeda, Veronica and others, as well as a huge stage production of more than 100 dancers, performers, and 5 others shows taking place throughout the night. The

Festival this year features an incredible list of the world's best gay and gay-friendly guest DJ's performing at over 25

different musical events spread out over 7 days (Oct. 6 to 12). Victor Calderone (NYC), Tom Stephan (London UK), Abel (Miami), Rob Davis (Sydney, Australia), Neil Lewis (San Francisco), Manny Lehman (Los Angeles), Mark Anthony (Montreal), Billy Carroll (NYC), David Knapp (Miami/NYC), Dougie Vee (London UK), Peter Rauhofer (Austria/NYC), just to name a few.

The Festival also features, in a unique way, 20 different socio-cultural activities catering to all tastes and clientele, with the support of local authorities and Montreal-based partners.

All proceeds from the many activities of the Festival go to the BBCM Foundation, a non-profit organization supporting direct AIDS care groups and gay & lesbian community organizations.

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Becoming Ourselves:

Holding Matthew's Gaze

By Shawn Mooney



He was found tied to a fence, thirty-six hours after the beating.

Unconscious, barely alive. The cyclist who happened upon the scene thought it was a scarecrow at first. But no: a face caked in blood except for tear-rinsed cheeks. The image condenses the horror of what 21-year-old Matthew Shepard endured that Wyoming night at the hands of fag-bashers.

A year ago this month, the murder of the "best little boy in the world" inflamed the debate about our political and personal survival. For many of us, this hate crime also triggered painful memories of our own struggle with homophobia inflicted by hand, word or deed. Matthew's battered face came to symbolize our own wounds.

Politics and personal sorrow commingled immediately in the form of activist vigils in almost every North American city, including Edmonton. I was grateful

for the opportunity to help organize the Toronto vigil; in four days three of us put it together and tapped into the queer community's throb of anger and grief that brought 1,500 out. It was an experience I'll never forget, one that changed me in ways I still don't fully appreciate.

I mourned Matthew's death as if I had known him personally, haunted by stories of his gentleness, loveableness and bravery. My grief gradually transformed into a reaffirmation of those same qualities in myself — qualities my gayness has instilled in me despite society's condemnation. I welcomed this inner stirring that pushed me to recommit to social justice for us queer folk, and for others oppressed by hatred. The intensity of my emotions made me feel more a part of the swirling, beautiful, unjust world.

Wounds surface to be healed. A big part of my healing came in the form of a dream I awoke from the morning Matthew would have turned 22: December 1st, 1998. In the dream, I am at some conference in a swanky hotel and I am shocked to see Matthew there, back from the dead.

People crowd around him; I want to approach him and express what his life and death mean to me but I feel shy. So I rehearse what I want to say, and later that night find him alone: I walk up to him, he smiles at me and I launch into my speech.

When I get to the part of my spiel where I mention his murder, Matthew immediately starts to cry. As he maintains intense eye contact with me, tears spill down his cheeks. "Ever since this happened," Matthew says, "I haven't been able to stop crying. And you know something? It feels good."

Flabbergasted, I stop talking, lock eyes with this beautiful young man and I cry too. We stare deep into one another's eyes in silence.

"You're right," I finally say. "It does feel good."

I wake up.

Comforted by Matthew's dream visit, I am also challenged to live out the message: not only to touch the bottom of my own pain but to meet you from that place.

Not only to feel my emotions but to act on them - in relationship and in the larger world.

To recognize that the political and the personal can never be separate: Matthew's cleansing tears (and mine) pull me out into the world at the same time as I inhabit myself more deeply.

The dream begins to answer back the horror of Matthew's ordeal, alchemizes the image of his bloodied, tear-stained face into one of healing and possibility. Justice starts when we look each other in the eye and express our wounded, gentle, fierce truths. In so doing, we begin to embody Ghandi's words when he said: "*You must be the change you wish to see in the world.*"

(Shawn Mooney is a psychotherapist in private practice in Edmonton. You can reach Shawn at 988-2741, mooneys@telusplanet.net, or on the Web at www.telusplanet.net/public/mooneys.)

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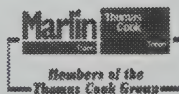
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So What.. I am Gay

Alright, so I am gay. So many people hate labels, I don't mind. It's just the simplest way to tell you that unlike so many males, I am not attracted to girls. So, what does this mean? It means that I am not allowed a normal life. It means I cannot live like 'straight' guys do. It means that I have had to put up with a lot, and it's only the beginning. It's often easy to wonder what is the meaning of all this. 'The meaning of life?', that is different for everybody. Everybody has their own justification for their existence, but really what is the purpose of life... not my life, not your life, life in general. Why are we here? I was thinking about this, the other day, trying to formulate some type of answer. First I was thinking that we are all part of a huge plan, every movement, every word is the basis of another event, caused by a previous one. This is just great but why the big plan, why an elaborate sherdade, what's the purpose of that? I can't answer that, I can see no reason. Our whole planet is here just to play the game, why? Of course God has everything to do with this, so it's all his big plan etc. etc., but again why? So that when we finish we can live eternally

in heaven, everybody knows that. Ok Ok, it's so simple now, but why don't we just skip over all this and go to heaven? Why do we go there? What is the point. Ok so if our planet just disappeared right now, it wouldn't make any difference. Doesn't that make you feel insignificant? Sure, if any part of our world disappears it impacts other parts. If somebody dies somebody else cries. So then I think we are living perhaps for the people around us? It's a huge interconnected web of relations, but overall the whole big picture seems to have no purpose.

So I wonder, as the most destructive species alive on this large chunk of rock, why do we so often feel the need to understand why we are here. People are too self-centered and everything that happens needs to happen for them. Look around at nature, the animals, the insects, the plants, anything they do that has no benefit for their species benefits another species. Trees process carbon dioxide and output a chemical that is useless to them, oxygen. All animals that I am aware of need oxygen to live. This theme continues all through nature, it's a series of self-replenishing loops. Until you come to humans that is. Here we have people that harvest all the resources of the planet at a rate far faster than they can be reproduced, and we output so many things that are overly destructive to our world. We are destroying this planet because we continue

to do things that please us but harm nature. There is an extreme lack of balance and we have become extremely overpopulated. Most species have a balancing factor that limits their population, and when a species in nature does overpopulate you always, always see a negative effect on the surrounding ecosystem. So, I think with a puzzled expression, we are here to destroy this place. No that can't be, keep thinking....

I imagine I am in the deep northwoods of Alberta, sitting



on a log near a lake. So far from human civilization that there are no paved roads, no aircraft, no human sounds at all. There is no hum of electricity, no whine of fluorescent lights, no rumble of machinery. All I can hear is the breeze rustling the treetops, birds chirping, frogs croaking. What do they think the meaning of life is? Now that I think about it, they don't know. They don't think about that. They don't care. So are they happy? Yeah I think so, I think that the creatures in nature are rather

content. Why is that, why can they just be happy. They don't think critically that's why. "Ignorance is Bliss" Think about it, so many things you are better off not knowing.

So what the heck am I trying to say? I may not even know myself. It's just that we want to know everything and some things we are better off not knowing. Maybe we know too much, maybe when we finally do know too much, it will be the end. I think that I really don't want to know, I will be happier if I just go on not knowing, living my life one day at a time. Why would we keep experiencing every moment if we knew what awaited us at the end? We would want to skip right on to the next part and loose interest in the present. No, don't tell me that you know what the meaning of life is, certainly don't share it with me if you really know. I want to experience every day, every new experience for what it is and play things out one day at a time. That way I can get the most out of things, live in the moment but live for the future. Follow good morals and good values, but within that do enjoy your time here because who knows how long you have. Don't fear the end, welcome it because it comes for everybody and it really is only the beginning. If you live to preserve yourself and prolong the end, you will miss everything along the way. Ideally you want to live with no worries, no regrets. Then, and only then, can you live life to the fullest and be happy while making others around you happy.

(Mark's thoughts - he is 15 years old)

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Noon - 10:00 pm, 7 days a week

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JUST FRIENDS

Box 1207: Just looking around for another guy that's a bit like myself. I guess. Lives a very straight lifestyle, looks and acts straight, but is going to be a great source of humour, fairly attractive, someone who's a philosophical thinker, takes life seriously, not too serious, but serious enough to get through it. I myself I'm 5'11", 170lbs, and very masculine, attractive, very straight acting and looking. I love dancing, people, the outdoors and I'm looking for guys to connect with who will help me continue to live that kind of healthy lifestyle.

Box 1361: I'm looking for some friends in the gay community. I'm never really laid that many, none right now. I like to relax, read, listening and discussing things like current events.

Box 1396: Babe, 19, student, 5'10", 170lb, blonde hair, blue eyes, like a bit of a muscular build. Just looking for people to talk with. I enjoy going out for coffee or going out and having a good time.

Box 1592: Single male, 30s, brown hair, blue eyes, 5'7", 140lb, wanting to talk and meet other males to about 40 years old. I'm new to this and just looking to go for a coffee or beer and see what happens. I like movies, music, I'm pretty honest and sincere and am looking for the same.

Box 1654: 32, looking for another guy between 25-38. Someone who does not drink or do drugs. Smokes are OK. Just wanting to make friends and find some activities to do.

Box 1668: 44 Native male, new to Edmonton, new in this system. Looking for friends. I like movies, going to football games, hockey games to meet up with other people. Want to be gay, more into Edmonton. Looking for other people to be friends with, doesn't matter what age.

Box 1791: 190, 20s, brown hair and eyes, 6', want to make some new friends, see what happens from there. If you're under 20, get back to me.

Box 1837: White male, 5'8", 140lb, dark hair, hazel eyes, wear glasses. I'm considered attractive. I enjoy movies, walking, talking, going for coffee, the occasional drink. I do smoke. I live by myself, so if you want to get in touch with me, my phone is under 20-25, please do.

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIPS

Box 1665: 20, 6', 160lb, short blondish hair, brown eyes, clean-shaven, smooth chest, good shape. I'm into the outdoors, trying to get out of the house, so I'm looking for someone who is not into that. I want to be gay, more into Edmonton. Looking for other people to be friends with, doesn't matter what age.

CASUAL ENCOUNTERS

Box 1114: The very good looking 27 year old guy has a light grey, 170lb and is looking for other very good looking guys in their 20s or early 30s with broad, light, muscular smooth bodies.

Box 1150: Just turned 26 5'10", 150lb, short black hair, dark brown eyes, hands covered in tattoos. I'm looking for a good looking, clean, sexy, discreet, long lasting. I would like to meet an older, well-endowed man for good times, somebody who's discreet and looking for casual encounters.

Box 1188: Steve, 25, very good looking, very fit, looking for the same. I'm not into head games, when I mean I'm attracted, I mean it. I'm looking for a straight acting guy. Myself I'm fit, leaving more towards the gay scene lately. I'm into sports, running, swimming, tennis, bicycle. I'm very fit, clean shaven, 150lb, 32 waist, blonde streaks, brown hair. Serious, funny, very straight acting, lots of things that could mention but I only have so much time.

Box 1261: Are there any black guys around? I'm very much interested in meeting black guys. I'm 5'7", 145lb, 150lb. Slightly built and flexible. More a latino.

Box 1305: 6'2", 180lb, fit, solid muscular build, very well-endowed, good looking, brown hair. Looking for another good looking, in-shape guy who wants to play around with maybe a couple of guys. I'm in my late 20s and I'm looking for somebody in their 20s and 30s, as long as you're in good shape and you're good looking.

Box 1022: 21, male, brown hair and eyes, built and flexible, just a nice handy guy. I'm looking for a nice, handsome friendly guy around my age who is honest and romantic. I'm willing to travel.

Box 1278: 24, 35, hot Mr. McGuffin. I'm looking for someone to go to. I'm like I'm collecting, enjoying the outdoors, going out, going to movies, cuddling, nice romantic dinner by candle light, etc. You must have a good sense of humour, outgoing, very honest & discreet.

Box 1407: Looking for someone whose biggest anatomical feature is his heart, who will share at least one of my interests in theatre, film, writing or hockey. Someone who can communicate well with a touch as well as a word. Any of this describes you and you are mature enough to consider a relationship with a passionate guy in his 40s. I'd really like to talk to you.

Box 1317: 25, 5'11", 150lb, short blonde hair, clean-shaven, looking to meet someone who is not into drugs, wants to get to know someone for who they are and hopefully like to talk to me.

Box 1472: Very attractive, 27, 5'W, 5'10", 145lb, swimmer's build and a nice smooth chest. I'm fun, imaginative, adventurous and very sexy. What I'm looking for is a casual but ongoing discreet relationship with an older gentleman who is fun, well-dressed and does not spoil their playmate.

Box 1607: Professional male looking for someone who is willing to get into a relationship, 47, enjoy younger men, very discreet, 7'12", out, enjoying my partner, very versatile and sincere. Looking for the same.

Box 1682: Very young male, 18, short dark hair, grey eyes, clean-shaven, 5'9", slim build. Just moved from Winnipeg and I'd like to meet some new people and possibly find Mr. Right.

Box 1816: Tony, 19, 5'9", 150lb, dark brown hair and eyes, smooth body. Basically looking for a friendship that may come over to a relationship.

Box 2240: 47, 5'9", 160lb, hairy, horny top and bottom, get together with somebody I'd like to hook with, let's get together and get it on.

Box 1857: Very sexy, soft, sensual, nice figure, great legs, slender, smooth skin, definitely a hottie, somewhat feminine. I'd love to get together with an older gentleman, gay, bisexual or bi-curious. Have him take me for coffee and just to look and receive all your affection. I'd like to be touched and caressed with lots of body contact, very hot and as well.

Box 1862: Looking for any hot young studs 22 and under who want to get together on a casual basis and on in. I myself am 5'11", 160, hairy body, smooth out, love the outdoors, love to have a good time.

Box 1868: 34, white male, Scandinavian type, 180lb, 5'11", blonde hair, hazel green eyes. Relatively new to the scene and like to have a good time.

Box 1976: 34, male, brown hair, hazel eyes. Relatively new to the scene and like to have a good time.

Box 1976: 34, male, brown hair, hazel eyes. Relatively new to the scene and like to have a good time.

Box 2099: 6', clean, healthy. Approximately 7 to 7'12", out, looking for a masculine man with a hairy chest, any military service or a wife or woman. Let's get together and suck, some cock, maybe more.

Box 1078: 32, 145lb, blue eyes, brown hair, muscular, into a guy, having my wife hooked on sex, watching, French kissing.

Box 1263: Bottom guy looking for a top guy to come over to. I am 5'7", 7", out, 144-150lb, slightly built, and would like somebody to show me some stuff that I haven't done before, or maybe let me tell to do. I'm more of a submissive type of guy.

Box 1262: Bottom guy looking for a top guy. Are there any black guys around who want to tell me what to do? Very interested in meeting black guys. I'd do whatever you want to do.

Box 1344: Adam, heavy set, submissive, bottom boy, 25, 260lb, 5', moderately hairy, 8'12", out, looking at casual fun with a good looking guy. A guy I can talk. Leave me your box number and description. I'd like to Edmonton once in awhile and I can entertain.

Box 1552: 35, slim build, smooth chested, brown hair and eyes, muscular, looking for a hairy guy who like getting out. I'm submissive and I'd like to entertain. Looking for hairy guys, with no strings attached. Be a line I have to give head.

Box 1852: Looking for a guy or a girl, can be married, attracted to single, somebody who wants to have a good time. I'm 5'10", I like being with guys who like being and not like a beard, and being a bottom. I have a fairly flexible schedule. I have a place that sometimes available during the day or evenings. So if you want to have a casual encounter and some fun, let me know.

Box 1556: 28, looking to get together with a guy, 6'5", out.

Box 1643: Late 30s, hairy, smooth, submissive, needs discipline with a boss, someone speaking and is willing to please mostly.

Box 1752: Dominant white male, 6', 200lb, shaved head, good looking, looking for a submissive male that likes to suck cock.

Box 1864: I deserve absolutely no mercy, stop for sex, looking for a guy. I want to use as your own private plaything, dominate me, dominate me, make me suck and suck I will. Anything

you, your most bizarre kinky sex fantasies being acted out in reality. 6'3", 155lb, lean, attractive, light brown hair, blue eyes. Looking for severe SM, bondage, humiliation, degradation, debasement, feminization, turn me into your kinky little sex slave, your most bizarre little treat.

Box 1913: 6', leather artist, 190lb, bearded, hairy chested, submissive guy who's masculine and looking for the other half with a dominant take-charge guy into bondage, discipline, role-play. Make fantasy a reality. Thank you, sir.

Box 2031: Looking for young cute male, pretty boy type guys, 18-22 or 23, skinny or slim, submissive, boyish looking, smooth guys. I'm a young looking 30, 5'10", 160lb, short brown hair, hazel eyes. Hope you're submissive and want to dominate you, hope you're young.

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with make-up and wig, and want to go out and have a drink. Whether it be for friends or sexual encounters I stand 6'3", around 255lb, moderately hairy body, short trimmed beard, and nose piercings. I'm a real nice guy, I'm a really nice guy with a very long hair, hazel eyes, and I'm from the summer. I'm 20, I'm handsome, but that is for you to find out. I am a very youthful 54.

Box 1412: I'm Jimmy, a possible TV when I like the time. And I am absolutely hot in my real life. I'm a long, long, and looking really nice. I make fantasy a reality. Thank you, sir.

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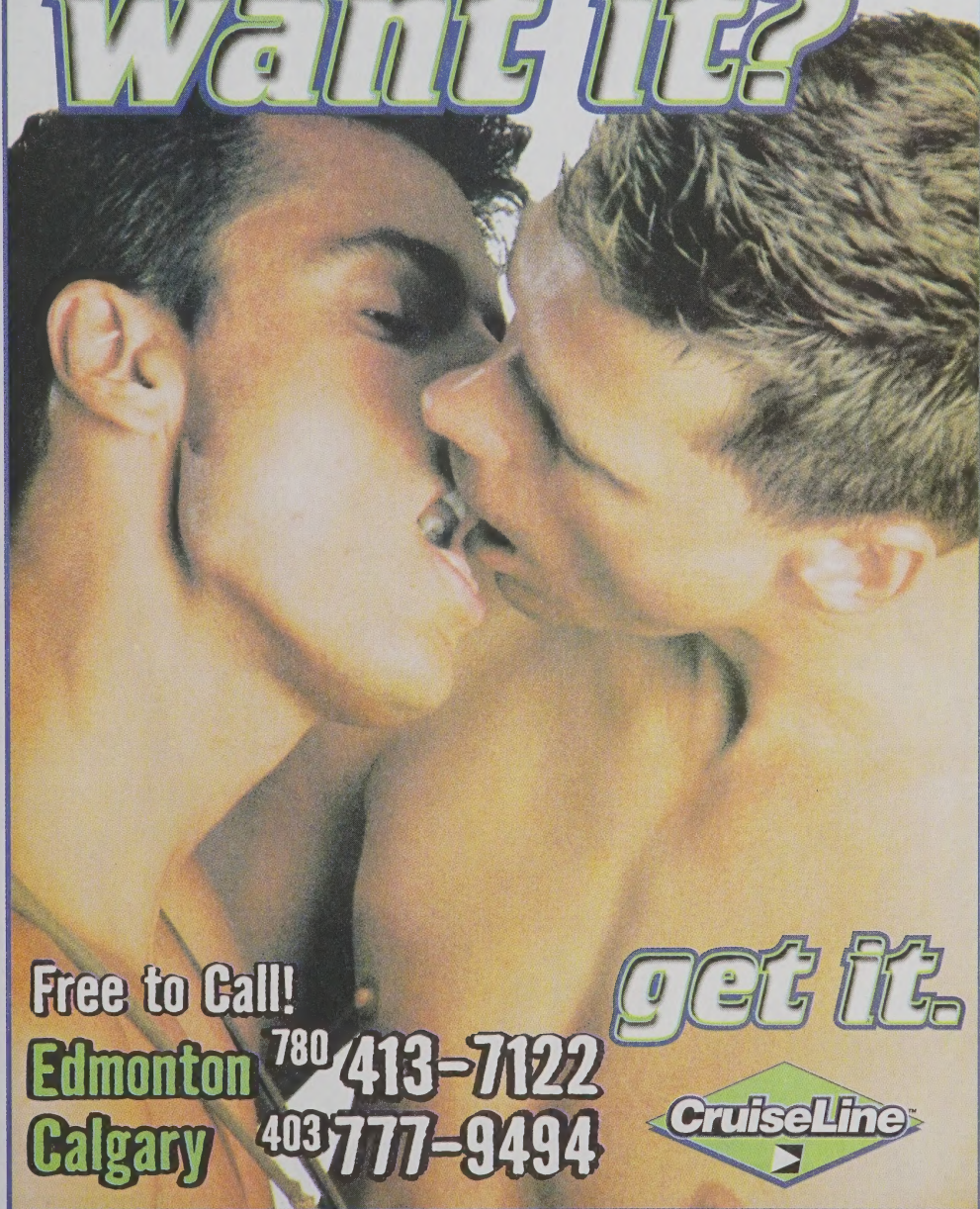
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